Saint John Lutheran Church In America

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Eagle

The monthly newsletter of Saint John Lutheran Church
2150 Centre Avenue Bellmore NY 11710
(516) 785-4331

March 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

This season of Lent and Easter is somewhat unusual. We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, which was also Valentine's Day. That may seem like an odd pairing, but our Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton, insists that for Christians, these two events on the same day are not incompatible, they are inseparable. The story of God acting in human history is an extended love story between God and God's creation, between God and humankind, between God and God's people. We were created out of God's love so that we could love God and one another. It is a real, solid love, one that is also true enough to be honest. God brings us salvation in spite of the fact that God knows we will always have tendencies towards sin and rebellion. After centuries of trying other ways to bring us to God, God chose the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to offer us forgiveness and new life, even in the midst of deep pain.

Eaton concluded her meditation by inviting us to think of this Ash Wednesday as a valentine from God, that invites us to enter more deeply "into the mystery of true love, honest examination of our lives and the possibility of real repentance." This Ash Wednesday valentine started us on our Lenten journey to the cross, where we will see the love of God revealed in the cross, and after that, the resurrection. This valentine frees us to see the truth, and the truth will set us free. (*Living Lutheran, February 2018*)

In another strange twist, Easter Sunday this year is on April Fools' Day. I can imagine Jesus appreciating the jokes that are no doubt going to arise from that pairing. It is actually somewhat appropriate, because many people thought the early Christians were fools for believing that a rabbi who had been humiliated and crucified had been raised from the dead. What a foolish tale that appeared to be. As St. Paul reminds us, "For since in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." (1Cor 1:23 -25)

This Easter may we find joy and the promise of salvation and eternal life in the wisdom of God that others deem to be foolish. *Pastor Cline*

SAINT JOHN MISSION STATEMENT:

We are a community of faith that is: gathered for worship and fellowship, empowered by Scripture and the Sacraments, strengthened for service and sent forth as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Staff at Saint John:

- *Pastor: Rev. Laurie Cline*
- *Deacons:*
  Ms. Charlene Drewes
  Ms. Mary Barberio
- *Office Manager:*
  Mrs. Jeana Dwyer
- *Newsletter Editor:*
  Mrs. Jeana Dwyer
- *Congregational President:*
  Ms. Suzanne Ryan
- *Organist & Choir Director:*
  Ms. M. Quinn Anderson
- *Sexton: Mr. Nikolai Dovirak*

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WORSHIP HELP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

3/4
Acolyte: Collin Roulston
Altar Guild: Kathy Strouse & Lori Vanderwaren
Lector: Marion Schuarade
Ushers: Bob Altman & Thomas Simone
Assisting Minister: Ira Bergman
Communion Asst: Margaret Neverka
Greeter: Ed Cline
Coffee Hour: Margaret & John Neverka

3/11
Acolyte: Hudson DiTuri
Altar Guild: Nancy Dineen
Lector: Corey Bogen
Ushers: Suzanne Ryan & Andrew Vogel
Assisting Minister: Gail Tomasulo
Communion Asst: Lise-Anne Orlich
Greeter: Frank Branciforti
Coffee Hour: Marion & Bill Schurade

3/18
Acolyte: Aidan Sargent
Altar Guild: Danielle Branciforti
Lector: Jennifer Cline-Sargent
Ushers: Gail Tomasulo & Ed Finn
Assisting Minister: Nicholas Waldron
Communion Asst: Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Greeter: Stephen Dowling
Coffee Hour: Carol-Ann Kehrbaum & Renate Petschauer

3/25 Palm Sunday
Acolyte: Elizabeth Kamelhar
Altar Guild: TBD
Lector: Jessica Pagano
Ushers: Nicholas Dowling, Tom Sargent & Thomas Ziminski
Assisting Minister: Dcn. Mary Barberio
Communion Asst: Danielle Branciforti
Greeter: Bill Schurade
Coffee Hour: Karen & Tom Brucia

3/29 Maundy Thursday
Acolyte: Sara Forchelli
Altar Guild: Nancy Dineen
Lector: Dcn. Mary Barberio
Ushers: Bill Schurade & Gail Tomasulo
Assisting Minister: Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Communion Asst: Margaret Neverka
Greeter: Ed Cline
Coffee Hour: N/A

3/30 (Good Friday)
Acolyte: Aidan Sargent
Altar Guild: N/A
Lector: N/A
Ushers: Bob Altman & Ira Bergman
Assisting Minister: Gail Tomasulo
Communion Asst: N/A
Greeter: Frank Branciforti
Coffee Hour: N/A

4/1 Easter Sunday
Acolyte: Erin Dwyer
Altar Guild: Kathy Strouse & Lori Vanderwaren
Lector: Aidan Sargent
Ushers: Sue Bogen, Tom Sargent & Andrew Vogel
Assisting Minister: Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Communion Asst: Marion Schurade
Greeter: Stephen Dowling
Coffee Hour: N/A

3/4 Jeana Dwyer & Suzanne Ryan
3/11 Jennifer Pagano & Jack Waldron
3/18 Dcn. Charlene Drewes & Lori Vanderwaren
3/25 Jeana Dwyer & Suzanne Ryan
3/29 TBD
3/30 TBD
4/1 Dcn. Charlene Drewes & Lori Vanderwaren

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Pastor Cline
3 Austin Miller
7 Mary Barberio
8 Olivia Orlich
13 Aidan Sargent
17 JT Smith
17 Gail Tomasulo
18 Tom Sargent
22 Nolan Mooney
22 Addie Szabo
27 Chris Kugler
27 Jim Leys
31 Jeremy Robinson

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday in March. Please notify the office if your birthday was inadvertently left off the list.

Congratulations to
Caitlin Block
and
Keith Capone
on their engagement!
Proud parents are
Joyce and Paul Block.

THANK YOU

- To all of our Soup & Sustenance soup makers.
- To Ed Cline & John Neverka for crafting a barrier and adjusting the heat in Joyful Noise to protect the piano and keep it in tune.
- To Kathy Strouse, Karen Brucia, Lori Vanderwaren, Amy Wee and Deacon Charlene for decorating the Howe Room for the Chinese New Year celebration. To Karen & Tom Brucia who arranged for the food & to Kathy Strouse & Amy Wee for the delicious ice cream desserts. Last, but not least, thank you to all who helped clean up.
- Thank you to Margaret Neverka for the table topper, origami bags and bamboo scarf and to Danielle Branciforti for the crocheted blanket to use as raffles at the Chinese New Year celebration.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Lilies _____ *@ $9.00 each*

Tulips _____ *@ $9.00 each*

Hyacinths _____ *@ $9.00 each*

Given by:

❒ *In memory of:*

❒ *In honor of:*

❒ *In thanksgiving for:*

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 18, 2018

Total: _____ *plants* ***x*** *$9.00 =* ***$***_____

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Miss Quinn and Jennifer Cline Sargent are hard at work helping the Sunday School children and the youth choir prepare music for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If your family will not be in church on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday please contact Jennifer Cline Sargent as soon as possible.

Intergenerational Bibles and Bagels will not be held on Sunday, April 1 as we will be celebrating Easter. Study will return on the first Sunday in May.

On March 25, Palm Sunday, there will be no Sunday school class in order for our students to participate in the annual Easter egg hunt and Palm Sunday craft project. There will be no Sunday School on April 1, Easter Sunday , as well. Classes resume on Sunday, April 8.

All Sunday school children are invited to participate in the Good Friday children's gathering. If your child plans to attend please submit an enrollment form to Jennifer Cline Sargent.

We continue to collect the Sunday school benevolence money in support of Renatha's tuition. Please encourage your children's spirit of giving by having them put their Sunday School envelopes in during worship.

HOLY WEEK

We begin Holy Week with our palm procession and events for the children on Sunday, March 25 at our usual worship time of 9:30 a.m. Let us honor and remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us by attending worship on Maundy Thursday, March 29 and Good Friday, March 30, both at 7:30 p.m. There will be a Good Friday gathering for the younger children at 10:30 a.m., please watch for the sign up. For those who are able to attend, there will be an Easter Vigil at Grace Lutheran Church in North Bellmore on Saturday, March 31, at 7:30 p,m. We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, April 1, at 10 a.m. There would not have been a resurrection without the crucifixion of our Lord, so let us take the time to experience the journey to the cross so we can better understand the joy of Easter.

Triduum

Good Friday Children's Gathering
Friday, March 30 at 10:30 a.m.

- crafts
- cooking activity/snack
- stories
- helping children understand the complex story of Good Friday and Jesus' crucifixion

Open to our Sunday School children ages two through grade six. We ask that one adult accompany every two children. If you'd like to attend, please fill out the form below and return it to Jennifer Cline Sargent by Sunday, March 25.

Child(ren) attending:

Name: _____ Age/Grade _____

Name: _____ Age/Grade _____

Name: _____ Age/Grade _____

Adult(s) attending (grandparents/caregivers welcome!): _____

Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 25
9:30 a.m. holy communion starting with a palm procession into church

Maundy Thursday, March 29
7:30 p.m. holy communion

Good Friday, March 30
children's gathering at 10:30 a.m., Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 31
7:30 p.m. at Grace, N. Bellmore

Easter Sunday, April 1
10:00 a.m. holy communion

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
6:00 P.M.
GUY ANTHONY'S
2208 JERUSALEM AVENUE, MERRICK

CONTACT MARIE ORLICH TO RESERVE A SPOT

MARIEORLICH@AOL.COM OR
(516) 434-9283
BY MARCH 11

$45 Adults—$40 Seniors
$20 children 6 and under

~appetizer, salad, choice of 5 entrees, & dessert~

JOIN US FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP, RAFFLES AND DELICIOUS FOOD

*Beer, wine and mixed drinks will be available for an additional cost

All proceeds from the dinner will support travel, meal and accommodation expenses for the youth attending the national gathering

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM BISHOP

February 9, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ in the Metropolitan New York Synod:

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, during this time of major transition in your life together as a Synod.

It is my great privilege to accept the appointment of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and your Synod Council to serve as Interim Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod. I cherish our interdependence as a church and honor the collaboration between your Synod and our wider church that this appointment represents.

Having served as a Synodical Bishop and as a churchwide executive staff member, I believe that I will bring insights, wisdom, and experience that will benefit you in mission, "for such a time as this," to quote the title of the Metropolitan New York Synod's Strategic Plan.

A Bishop is certainly called to provide the ministry of oversight, but I also come to you with a pastor's heart as a servant leader to listen and to assess your needs and opportunities, providing both pastoral and theological insights needed to discern where God is calling you as a Synod as you move forward in mission, all the while inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. I look forward to hearing your personal stories, struggles, and joys, as well as those of your congregations, ministries, and indeed those of your Synod as a whole.

I pledge to you to serve in a way that honors the language of our constitution, namely, "*in keeping with apostolic advice, that all things be done decently and in order*."

I also pledge to walk with you in support of and advocacy for your mission commitments to serve the vulnerable immigrant communities as a Sanctuary Synod, to further efforts to end racism, to work toward the full inclusion of all of God's people in keeping with the faith commitments of our wider church and celebrating the rich diversity with which your Synod is blessed, and, finally, to promote and deepen the visible unity of both church and world in our many ecumenical and inter-religious relationships.

I look forward to our journey together.

Sincerely in Christ,
The Rev. Donald McCoid

To learn more about our new interim bishop go to:
http://www.mnys.org/who_we_are/bishop_donald_mccoid/

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Here we stand in the middle of the Lenten season. As Christians we seek and FIND Jesus in our midst, and as a response to our Lord's unconditional love and daily blessings [in the midst of our daily challenges], we find ways to care for our neighbors who are in need. And our faith in action is visible in the 240 lbs of food Ed Finn delivered to New Life Center. We also see our faith in action in the busy hands of our quilters, meal preparers, knitters, clothing & eye glasses donators, and kitchen & restroom suppliers.

As we journey on in faith-filled hope, we await the promise of budding life in nature and Springtime!

Thanks to God for our members for faith in action.

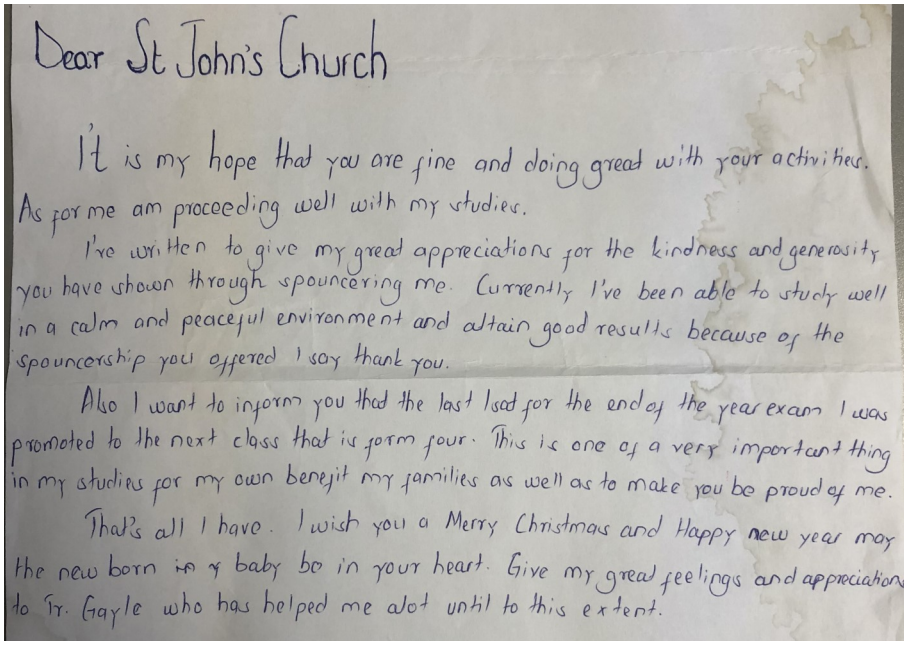
The Outreach/Social Committee

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Cooking for the I.N.N. is on Tuesday, March 13, starting at 5:30 pm. ***Helping hands are always welcome.***

Women's Bible Study is on Friday, March 23, starting at 10:00 am here at Saint Luke's in Farmingdale. Pastor Weber will lead us in "The Good Samaritan" from the March issue of *Gather* magazine.

NEWS FROM RENATHA



Dear St John's Church

It is my hope that you are fine and doing great with your activities. As for me am proceeding well with my studies.

I've written to give my great appreciations for the kindness and generosity you have shown through spouncering me. Currently I've been able to study well in a calm and peaceful environment and attain good results because of the spouncership you offered I say thank you.

Also I want to inform you that the last I sad for the end of the year exam I was promoted to the next class that is form four. This is one of a very important thing in my studies for my own benefit my families as well as to make you be proud of me.

That's all I have. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy new year may the new born in y baby be in your heart. Give my great feelings and appreciations to Fr. Gayle who has helped me alot until to this extent.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday
April 21
Cruise to Nowhere
Saint John Howe Room

Details to follow

Saturday April 28

Shared worship with St. Francis
Service: 5:30 p.m.
Meal: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Saint John

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday April 1 Easter Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.				1 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m./**Island Quilters 12:00 p.m. **Noon Bible study**	**2** A.A. - 7:30 p.m.	3
4 **3rd Sunday of Lent 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Soup & Sustenance**	5	6 A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	7	8 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m./**Island Quilters 12:00 p.m. **Noon Bible study**	9 A.A. - 7:30 p.m.	10 **5:30 p.m. shared service/6:00 p.m. meal (location St. Francis)/Daylight Savings Time Begins**
11 **4th Sunday of Lent 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Council meeting following worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Soup & Sustenance**	12	13 **Eagle Deadline INN Cooking 5:30 p.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	14	15 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m./**Island Quilters 12:00 p.m./ **Noon Bible study Belair 2:00 p.m**	16 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 **5th Sunday of Lent 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Soup & Sustenance Youth Fundraiser at Guy Anthony's 6:00 p.m.**	19Merrick Garden Club 12:00 p.m.	20 A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	21	22 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m.** Island Quilters 12:00 p.m. **Noon Bible study**	23 **WELCA Bible study 10:00 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	24
25 **Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Palm Sunday craft and Easter egg hunt**	26	27 A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	**28**	29 **Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.**	30 **Good Friday Children's Gathering 10:30 a.m. Tenebrae service 7:30 p.m.**	31 Easter Vigil 7:30 p.m. at Grace North Bellmore

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, March 4 – Soup & Sustenance
Saturday, March 10 – Worship with St. Francis 5:30 service/6:00 meal
(location St. Francis)
Sunday, March 11 – Soup & Sustenance, council meeting following worship
Sunday, March 18 – Soup & Sustenance, Youth fundraiser at Guy Anthony's 6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 23 – WELCA Bible study at St. Luke's 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday worship 9:30 a.m., Palm Sunday craft and Easter egg hunt following worship
Thursday, March 29 – Maundy Thursday worship 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 30 – Good Friday—10:30 a.m. children's gathering, 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae service
Saturday, March 31 – Easter Vigil at Grace N. Bellmore 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE EAGLE IS APRIL13

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