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

April 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Easter is not just a day, the day we celebrate the most important but also the most logic-defying truth of the church, that Jesus, who had died an agonizing death, whose lifeless body had been laid in a tomb by friends, was now alive again. Easter is a season, from the Day of Resurrection until Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's spirit, and therefore the spirit of Jesus.

Turns out we need an entire season – in truth, a lifetime - but a season each year set apart to deliberately think about, question, and be thankful for the greatest gift God has given humankind.

In order for the story to be told, not just as a myth or tradition, but with absolute belief on the part of the storytellers, Jesus had to prove that he was alive again. In ancient days they did not have death certificates issued by bureaucracies that demanded proof and then issued official papers duly notarized and sealed. In Jesus' day there were litmus tests to prove that one was not a ghost, or spirit, but alive. One could show their hands and feet, demonstrate that their feet were solidly on the ground, and eat food. According to the post-resurrection stories in the gospels, Jesus passed those tests – at least the showing of his hands and feet and eating food. There doesn't seem to be any mention of his feet being solidly on the ground but presumably his followers could see that for themselves.

Hard to believe? In truth, unimaginable. But Jesus proved to his followers, through both the traditional tests of physicality as well as reminding them how his story was a fulfillment of scripture, that he, who had been dead, was now alive again. Let's face it, the empty tomb by itself just wasn't going to stand up as proof of his resurrection.

The proof was so convincing that the people who had followed him as their rabbi were now convinced that he was the Messiah, God Incarnate, who had come to offer salvation and eternal life. They were so convinced that they risked everything, including their own lives, to share his story all over the Roman Empire. In turn, their testimony was so convincing that thousands of people became believers.

We need to take this time, this season of Easter, to remember not only the story of Jesus and his life, death and resurrection but also the courageous people who kept the story alive and managed to spread it all over one of the largest empires the world has ever known. They succeeded in spite of doubt and, at times, severe persecution.

The point of all this is so that we share the story for future generations, and so that we model the story for all those we come into contact with. We become examples of the love, compassion, mercy and justice that Jesus came into the world to share. That is called living the resurrected life and it is only possible because of God's free gift of grace.

Have a blessed season of Easter!

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 APRIL

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

4/8 (Service of the Word)
Acolyte: Melanie Bogen
Altar Guild: Nancy Dineen
Lector: Barbara Altman
Ushers: Gail Tomasulo & Ed Finn
Assisting Minister: Ira Bergman
Communion Asst: N/A
Greeter: Bill Schurade
Coffee Hour: John & Margaret Neverka

4/15
Acolyte: Collin Roulston
Altar Guild: Kathy Strouse & Lori Vanderwaren
Lector: Corey Bogen
Ushers: Tom Sargent & Andrew Vogel
Assisting Minister: Gail Tomasulo
Communion Asst: Marion Schurade
Greeter: Ed Cline
Coffee Hour: Karen & Tom Brucia

4/22 (Prayer & Anointing)
Acolyte: Sophie Orlich
Altar Guild: Jennifer Bergman & Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Lector: Jennifer Cline Sargent
Ushers: Nicholas Dowling & Suzanne Ryan
Assisting Min: Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Communion Asst: Lise-Anne Orlich
Greeter: Stephen Dolwing
Coffee Hour: Carol-Ann Kehrbaum & Renate Petschauer

4/28 (Service w/ St. Francis)
TBD

4/29
Acolyte: Hudson DiTuri
Altar Guild: Nancy Dineen
Lector: Nancy Kamps-Cook
Ushers: Ira Bergman & Thomas Simone
Assisting Minister: Dea. Mary Barberio
Communion Asst: Marion Schurade
Greeter: Frank Branciforti
Coffee Hour: Sue Bogen & Tracey Schaeffer

April Counting Schedule:
4/1 Dcn. Charlene Drewes & Lori Vanderwaren
4/8 Jennifer Pagano & Jack Waldron
4/15 Marion & Tony Elicati
4/22 Bob Altman & Nancy-Kamps-Cook
4/29 Jeana Dwyer & Suzanne Ryan

THANK YOU

- To AJ & Marie and Guy Anthony's for hosting a youth fundraiser for the national gathering and preparing delicious food as always.
- To all of our Soup & Sustenance soup makers.
- To Margaret Neverka for making the tags for all of the Easter plants and arranging them all in the sanctuary
- To Ed Cline for fixing the toilet in the small bathroom.
- To Jennifer Cline Sargent for planning and running a great Good Friday gathering for the children.
- To Margaret Neverka for preparing the craft for Palm Sunday and to the teachers and parents who helped the children with them.
- To the youth that helped with the Palm Sunday craft and the Easter Egg hunt following.
- To everyone who ordered Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary.
- To Olivia Orlich and Sara Forchelli for picking up new readings at the last minute on Palm Sunday.
- To Erin Dwyer and Nolan Mooney for lending their voices to the Senior choir on Palm Sunday .
- Thank you to Katie Pellegrino for a wonderful Evangelism event! Katie and Kathy Strouse filled over 900 colorful eggs for the children to gather. Our chef for the day was Jim Strouse. Set up and clean up were Katie, Kathy, Jim, Lori Vanderwaren, Tracey Schaeffer, Jennifer Pagano and Deacon Charlene who also interacted with the children in the Sanctuary about the "Reason for the Season". Special thank you to Kevin Rollando for being a wonderful Easter Bunny.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

5 Ed Cline
12 Dawn Wickline
13 Nina Thilesen
13 Stephanie Kugler
17 Eric Sargent
24 Tom Smith
29 Lynda O'Keefe DiTuri
30 Kim Smith

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

BESA

PERHAPS THE LAST GREAT UNTOLD STORY OF WORLD WAR II

Come visit the exhibit BESA: A Code of Honor, to learn about the courageous acts of the Albanian people to help the Jews during the Holocaust.

Exhibit Dates
April 12—May 7 2018

Exhibit Hours
Sundays 10am—1pm
Tuesdays 10am—12pm
Wednesdays 10am—12pm, 4pm—6pm
Thursdays 10am—12pm, 4pm—6pm, & 7pm—9pm

Location
Congregation Beth Ohr
2550 S. Centre Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710
(516) 781-3072

doTERRA® Wellness Advocate — *Jennifer Pagano*

Are you interested in learning about the benefits of essential oils? Well, you are in luck. Our own Jennifer Pagano has a wealth of knowledge to share. See her at coffee hour or email her at:

paganojen95@aol.com

Founded in 2008, doTERRA was built on the mission of sharing therapeutic-grade essential oils with the world. Having seen for themselves the incredible benefits that can be had from using these precious resources, a group of health-care and business professionals set out to make this mission a reality.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School children did a great job singing on Palm Sunday as did the Youth choir on Easter Sunday. The children are now working with Ms. Quinn on new music to share with us on Pentecost Sunday.

Every year the youngest members of our congregation learn the story of Good Friday at our children's gathering. Thank you to Deacon Mary Barberio, Pastor Cline, Tina Goodlin, Jennifer Pagano, Lauren Roulston, Aidan Sargent, Christa Tuccillo, and everyone who brought their children to participate for helping with the crafts and baking of our famous Resurrection cookies.

Our next Intergenerational Bible study will be on Sunday, May 6, led by Tom Sargent.

We continue to collect the Sunday school benevolence money in support of Renatha's tuition. Please have your children put their Sunday School envelopes in the basket each Sunday.

Pentecost Breakfast

Sunday, May 20
Howe Room
Following Worship

Tickets will be on sale soon for our annual Pentecost breakfast fundraiser. Renatha is in the home stretch of finishing her high school education and all proceeds of the breakfast will support her tuition.

Ticket prices:
Adult - $10
Senior (65 & older) - $8
Children (ages 5-11) - $8
Children 4 & under are free
Maximum charge for an immediate family is $35.

Geraniums for Pentecost

If you'd like to order red geraniums to decorate the church on Pentecost and your garden afterward, please fill out and return this form to the church office. Only plants that are paid for in advance will be ordered.

Deadline to order
Sunday, May 13

Name: _____

# of plants _____ @ $7.00 each

Total paid: $_____

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The financial committee is always looking for ways to improve our reporting to the congregation. This year we will be preparing 3 statements as opposed to the 4 quarterly statements that members have received in the past several years. This change will present Lent and Easter giving in the same statement each year allowing for members to more easily compare their annual giving to last year.

The statements will be grouped as follows:

January—April

May—August

September—December

Sincerely,
The Financial Committee

Cruise to Nowhere

Boarding in the Howe Room
Saturday April 21
6:30 p.m.
$20 per person

Book your cruise with
Deacon Charlene
during coffee hour
or email her at:

snoflake41@aol.com

Last day for reservations is
April 15

BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE

On one Good Friday, my family worshipped at First Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh. In his sermon, Pastor David Gleason shared an image that has always stayed with me. He brought the crucifixion of Jesus to a larger picture than just looking at Golgotha and seeing Jesus dying on the Cross.

He spoke of the crucifixion as a cosmic event—where Jesus on the cross is suspended between an earth that had rejected him and a God that had forsaken him. He brought us into the sermon and this scene knowing that this may also be our experience as we face challenges in life, that we may also wonder where God is.

Where is our Lord? Easter brings the eternal message that Resurrection to new life is the victory. He is our Risen Savior who is with us through the challenging days and experiences of our lives. There are many days when we might feel forsaken, but **our Risen Lord brings forgiveness, newness of life, love, and hope to His followers.**

Luther's Easter Hymn powerfully joins our praises for what Christ Jesus has done for us:

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven.
Therefore, let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

Blessed Easter, dear friends in Christ!

Bishop Donald McCoid

COMMUNITY EASTER BREAKFAST

Thank you to all who participated in making the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny a success. We had 75 people attending with a few members of our own congregation taking the opportunity to evangelize. This is an outreach to the community from the focus groups that were gathered in the fall. We began in the sanctuary with a talk about the "Reason for the Season". Pancakes, sausages, cakes and cupcakes were served along with coffee, tea, juice and chocolate milk. The children were able to go to the craft table, play pin the tail on the bunny, and dance with the Easter Bunny before taking their picture if they choose. Finally, the children hunted for over 900 colorful eggs and there were 5 golden eggs that won a special Easter gift. Many positive comments were made about our church, especially how nice the sanctuary is. We hope to continue inviting outsiders "in". This along with future events may not bring people immediately to our church, but our goal is to plant the seed that we are a warm and friendly church.

EVANGELISM IN THE WORKS

During our Focus Groups many ideas were discussed for Saint John to be more visible to the community. Our first event was in the Fall which piggy-backed on the Bellmore Street Fair. It was a success and we are looking forward to this fall making it bigger and better! During our recent event, "Breakfast with the Bunny", members of our church were able to use their God-given evangelism tools to speak to guests about our church in a comfortable atmosphere. These events are not fundraisers. They are an attempt to invite people to see the inner workings and opportunities our church provides. Whether it be an immediate connection or seed planted for future, our hope is that we left them with a good impression of a warm and inviting church.

BUCK-A-CHICK

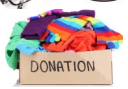
Ten little chicks make a *big* difference. Eggs are not only an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals, they also help bring in steady income when sold at the market. With this gift, things are looking up – sunny side up, that is.

This year we raised $170 enabling us to provide 17 families with chicks!! Thank you to all who participated.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Blessings to you as we enter the Easter season! Gone are the grey days, rain and snow storms [hopefully], as we look forward to the awakening of all living things! For some the Lenten season was a time to 'hunker down' and snuggle under a warm blanket and 'binge' watch entertaining movies/shows. However, during this 'down time' our devoted members did not forget those who may be lacking some of the amenities we tend to take for granted.

Thank you to all those who brought food stuffs [49 lbs and 150 lbs], clothing for adults and infants which Ed Finn took to New Life Center warehouse. Thank you also for the kitchen wares which Carol Ann brought to L. I. Council of Churches. And of course for supporting the Easter food baskets. Each of these 'treasures' were warmly received and greatly appreciated.



We continue to collect Campbell's soup labels, used eye glasses, infant, children and adult clothing, books and of course financial donations to support the Meals for The International Nutrition Network.

The Outreach/Social Ministry Committee

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Cooking for the I.N.N. is on Tuesday, April 10, starting at 5:30 pm. ***Helping hands always welcome!***

Women's Bible Study is on Friday, April 27, starting at 10:00 am here at Saint John Pastor Cline will lead us in "The Prodigal Son" from the April issue of *Gather* magazine.

Our quilters are busy at work and invite us to join them in their labor of love sewing and snipping needed and lovely creations. They were blessed to receive $250 from Thrivent to help support their work for this very important ministry.

SAINT JOHN GETS SOCIAL

Some of you may have noticed emails and postings to Facebook regarding events from Saint John. This is an outreach to individuals and families looking for a spiritual connection as well as keeping our current congregation up to date on happenings within the church. We hope to present Saint John in a warm, enthusiastic, inviting light. Thank you Amy Wee for designing our event and thank you flyers. Thank you Karen Brucia for updating our Facebook page with events and pictures. Thank you Jeana Dwyer for keeping track of all the event and thank you flyers, postings and pictures.

If you are on Facebook like our page and share it with your friends!

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Easter Sunday** **10:00 a.m. Holy Communion** 	**2** **Easter Monday** **Office Closed**	**3** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **8:00 p.m. Choir**	4	5 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m./**Island Quilters 12:00 p.m. **Noon Bible study**	**6** A.A. - 7:30 p.m.	7
8 **2nd Sunday of Easter** **9:30 a.m. Service of the Word** **10:45 a.m. Sunday School**	9	10 **INN Cooking 5:30 p.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **8:00 p.m. Choir**	11	1**LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m.** Island Quilters 12:00 p.m. **Noon Bible study** 2	143 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	14
15 **3rd Sunday of Easter** **9:30 a.m. Holy Communion** **10:45 a.m. Sunday School** **Council meeting following worship**	16 Garden Club 12:00 p.m.	17 **Eagle Deadline** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **8:00 p.m. Choir**	18	19 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m.** Island Quilters 12:00 p.m. **Noon Bible study** **Belair 2:00 p.m.**	20 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	21 **Cruise to Nowhere**
22 **4th Easter of Sunday** **9:30 a.m. Holy Communion** **10:45 Sunday School** **ENC meeting at 1:30 p.m.** 	23	24 A.A. 7:30 p.m. **8:00 p.m. Choir**	25 	26 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m./**Island Quilters 12:00 p.m./**Noon Bible study /Belair 2:00 p.m./Caregivers Workshop 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.**	27 **WELCA Bible study 10:00 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	28 **Shared service with St. Francis 5:30 p.m.** **Dinner 6:15 p.m. (at Saint John)**
29 **5th Easter of Sunday** **9:30 a.m. Holy Communion** **10:45 Sunday School**	30			Save the date First Holy Communion Sunday, May 20, 2018 9:30 a.m.		

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday service 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 8 – Service of the Word 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 15 – Council meeting following worship
Saturday, April 21 – Cruise to Nowhere
Thursday, April 26 – Caregivers Workshop 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Friday, April 27 – WELCA Bible study at Saint John Bellmore
Saturday, April 28 – Shared service with St. Francis 5:30 p.m./dinner 6:15 p.m.
(Location: Saint John)

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 APRIL17

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