Saint John Lutheran Church, Bellmore NY
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 2019

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.*

Join us for worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

The Eagle

Pastor's Message

On November 30, the first **Folk Artists of Long Island: Masters of Carving** crafts fair convened at **the Gallery @ St. John**. Folk artists filled ten tables with their unique and beautiful carvings, some for display or sale, and several artists did demonstrations.

The participants were Birt Birkelund, Howard Busch, Elliot Nathan, Brad Ferguson, Kenny Donovan, Myrna Sharqi, Michael Wolyniec, John Schmitt, and Vickie Bryant. Margaret Neverka had a table showing her amazing sewing skills in fabric baby books, potholders and other items. Master carvers Kenny Wang and Joe Passalacqua couldn't attend, but sent their carvings. One of the few women in carving, Myrna Sharqi, focused on doing demonstrations of wood carving.

A big thank you to the bakers of St. John: Renate Petschauer, Christa Tuccillo, Kathy Strouse and Deacon Charlene Drewes who brought the bagels and cream cheese for the folk artists. The confirmands Nolan Mooney, Melanie Bogen and guest Emily Kong, provided crucial help in the morning carrying tables from the Howe Room to the parsonage, and they also sold the baked goods, too. Makayla Nolan was a big help at the baked goods table.

Folk artist Howard Busch displayed a range of work. His paintings filled one room of the gallery and showed a diversity of styles. His work displays a 'blue period'; "Cutouts" showed a cubist influence. Most moving of all was his painting which showed a rabbi from the back, his prayer shawl filling the picture frame, a holy light surrounding the figure. Very distinctive are Howard's comfort crosses for hospice patients that are small enough to fit comfortably in the palm of a hand. Howard made a special gift of many of his carvings to benefit Saint John.

Of special note were the works of Michael Wolyniec, John Schmitt and Elliot Nathan. Michael, a retired FDNY firefighter, makes small comfort birds for hospice patients. He shows the delicacy of his work in his carvings of sand pipers, while his otter, made from a curved piece of driftwood, is museum-quality. His chain, made from a solid block of wood and composed of over twenty links, is a testament to artistry, craft, and perseverance. John Schmitt's birdhouses incorporate inlays of sports team logos such as the Mets, New York Rangers, and NY Yankees, which make these birdhouses unique and distinctive gifts (and too good to be left outside for the birds.) Elliot Nathan's work also included chains carved from a single block of wood. When I marveled at how difficult it must have been to carve, he just shrugged and said it was fun.

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Staff at Saint John:

Pastor: Rev. Nancy Rakoczy

Office Manager: Ms. Jeana Dwyer

Deacon: Ms. Charlene Drewes

Organist & Music Director: Ms. Quinn Anderson

Newsletter Editor: Ms. Jennifer Cline Sargent

Sexton: Ms. Kristina Kamps

Congregational President: Ms. Suzanne Ryan

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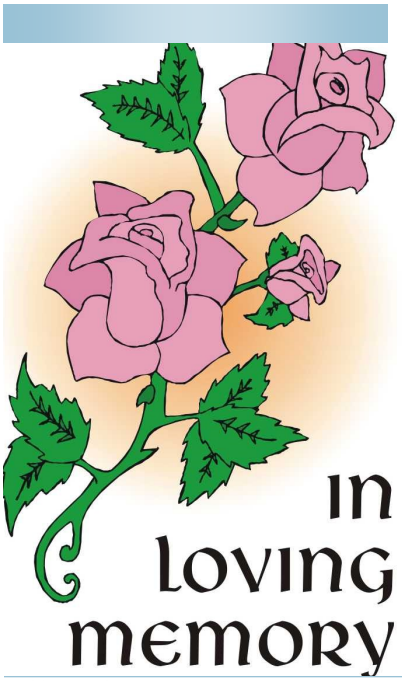
Special points of interest

- Wednesday Advent service at 7 p.m. on December 18 at Amy Wee & Tom Selvaggio's home.
- Church decorating will be on Saturday, December 21, 12:00 p.m.
- Lessons and carols service on Sunday, December 29 at 9:30 a.m.



Memorials & Donations

Memorials for Ed Finn:

The Dwyer family - deficit reduction
Barbara & Jack Waldron - LSS

Memorial Fund
Addie Szabo
Ruth & Richard Green
Florence Hettinger
Nancy Kamps-Cook
Brad Ferguson
Bette & Norman Perlin
Marion & Tony Elicati
Andrew & Doris Maksimchak
Fred & Margaret Lorenzen

Memorials for Lillian Guise:

The Dwyer family - deficit reduction

Memorial Fund
Susan Casto
Brenda & Tamara Shyngle
Nancy Kamps-Cook

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."— **Luke** 2:10*

December Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

6 Danika Puccio
7 Florence Hettinger
14 Nicole Kamelhar
16 Jeni Janis
17 Karen Brucia
21 Sara Forchelli
23 Paul Szabo
31 Russell Tomasulo
31 Blake and Paisley Anton

If you are celebrating in December and your name has been inadvertently left off the list, please contact the church office.

News, Notes & Greetings

Thank you everyone who contributed to the donation to Saint John Lutheran Church in memory of Eddie Finn. It was very much appreciated by the family and me.

~ Bunny Finn

Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers and cards from everyone at St. John. I find them very helpful and am always happy when I'm able to worship with everyone.

~ Brad Ferguson

Thank you all for the kind thoughts and condolences on the passing of our mother, grandmother & great-grandmother Lillian Guise. We especially appreciated the comfort meal provided by our Saint John family, it was very helpful. Lillian was loved by many in her 100+ years of life and is now at peace with our Lord.

~ The family of Lillian Guise

Advent Workshop

We enjoyed another successful Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 1. Thanks to everyone who brought soups, sandwiches, desserts as well as all those who helped set up and clean up. We also had many wonderful helpers at each craft table so everyone could participate, from the youngest to the oldest.

Thanks also to Margaret Neverka for once again organizing everything! The golden ladle award was given this year to Marion and Bill Schurade and Nina Thilesen for their many years of faithful soup making.

Poinsettia Order Form

(orders must be placed by December 15)

Name: _____

Number of plants _____ @ $13.00 per plant

❒ in memory of _____

❒ in honor of _____

❒ in thanksgiving for _____

❒ for decorating the church with greens, I contribute $_____

Total: $_____

Christian Education

Our confirmands have been doing Advent readings each Sunday as we light the candles. The Sunday School kids are working hard on the Christmas pageant, "Twinkle, the Christmas Star." You can see the fruit of these labors in church on Sunday, December 22. The youth choir is also working on a song for that day. We will hold dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 21 at 10 a.m. It's very important for all the kids to be there so we can fit for costumes and work out last-minute issues!

Quinn has resurrected the handbell choir and they are working diligently on a song. It won't quite be ready for Christmas this year, but they will play at Pastor's installation service on Sunday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in playing the bells (all you have to know how to do is count to four and remember your color), please see Quinn.

We will resume regular classes on Sunday, January 5.

Social Ministry

We delivered 166 lbs. of food to the New Life Center for the Thanksgiving baskets, which was very appreciated. The Giving Tree gifts were also delivered, all the tags we had on our "tree" were returned with wonderful gifts along with some extra ones. Our efforts will bring Christmas joy to many people.

We'll be collecting Java for January - check out those grocery flyers for sales! Please purchase and bring in cans of coffee. We'll collect them during the offering in church each week. Coffee is an item that doesn't get donated very often but is much needed. Let's see how much we can collect!

Please also keep in mind that New Life Center accepts gently used, clean clothing in good repair without tears, missing buttons, etc. As the weather gets colder, they have many people looking for winter coats, scarves, gloves, hats, sweaters and other warm items. If you have clothing that isn't being worn, please consider donating it.

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to…

* Jim Strouse for fixing the mail-box.
* John Neverka for coordinating with vendors to get estimates to repair the lintel and back door in Joyful Noise.
* Nancy Kamps-Cook for fixing the broken pew rack.
* Everyone who brought items for the potluck for Pastor Nancy's ordination celebration, those who set up and cleaned up and Deacon Charlene for coordinating.
* To everyone who helped with the Advent workshop.
* To everyone who contributed items for Pastor Nancy's ordination service refreshments.

LWR Quilters are in need of sheets and cotton fabric for quilting. Anyone who has a donation of these items can leave them on top of the sewing machine in the Howe Room.

Christmas at
St. John Lutheran Church
Bellmore, NY

Dec. 22nd Christmas Pageant
Children's Service 9:30 A.M.
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve
candlelight services
5:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M

Installation Service for Pastor Nancy

Called to Serve

Pastor Emily Trubey-Weller, the dean of our conference, will officially install Pastor Nancy at Saint John Lutheran Church at a special service on Sunday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

Congratulations to Margaret Neverka, who was presented with the Silver Beaver Award by Theodore Roosevelt Council, Boy Scouts of America. It is one of Scouting's highest honors.

Pastor's Message, continued

Our own Brad Ferguson displayed and sold his work. Many admired the artistry and skill that Brad lavishes on his pieces. His work has a range of subject matter, which included a bear, a hand raised in blessing, each finger distinctive and detailed; a cowboy sitting near a cactus, and a golfer bending over his golf ball. I have seen other pieces that he has at home, which include fine and delicate carvings of wings, each feather articulated.

The folk artists enjoyed the homey atmosphere of the parsonage, a welcome change from large parish halls where they usually show their work. I had the opportunity to share the good news of Christ to two participants, so it was also an evangelization event. The folk artists look forward to making this an annual event. Thank you to all the people of Saint John who came by and made this a successful day. Kudos to all who participated!

Saint John Lutheran Church

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Find us on:

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle is December 29. 2019.

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