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

January 2020

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

Happy New Year! It's still the Christmas season, with the time after Epiphany going into late February. We have had the wonderful Christmas pageant, and can view the pictures of the children on Facebook and the Saint John website: http://www.stjohnbellmore.org. There have been programs on TV and the internet showing a look backward of not just the year, but the decade. A producer or an editor decides what is important for us to reflect upon, with a list of events and people to recall.

How do we decide what is important for us to remember? The Romans had a god, Janus, who had two faces – one looking backward and the other looking forward. We will indeed look backward and forward this month, more so than other months. How will we evaluate the year that has gone by? What are your hopes, fears, and expectations for the upcoming year? You might want to write out your desires and what you look forward to for the world, our country, the community, church, your family, and your own personal hopes as a letter to yourself. Put the letter in an envelope. Tuck it away with the Christmas ornaments until next year. Your letter to yourself may be like a message in a bottle, a surprise gift. It could also be a quick family project, sitting around the kitchen table, reminiscing together and debating what is important. It can be fun, not a task.

When we think about the year before us, making plans, our hopes sketching out the future, remember to leave space to reflect and meditate on scripture. Carving out time for our relationship with Christ is crucial to being a Christian. Our hearts, spirits and lives are changed when we let the Word dwell in us. Whereas the ancient Romans had Janus, we have Christ, the Alpha and Omega. *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."* Revelation 22:13. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless us all with every blessing and grace, as we meet the challenges of the new year.

Staff at Saint John:

Pastor: Rev. Nancy Rakoczy

Office Manager: Ms. Janet Pescatore

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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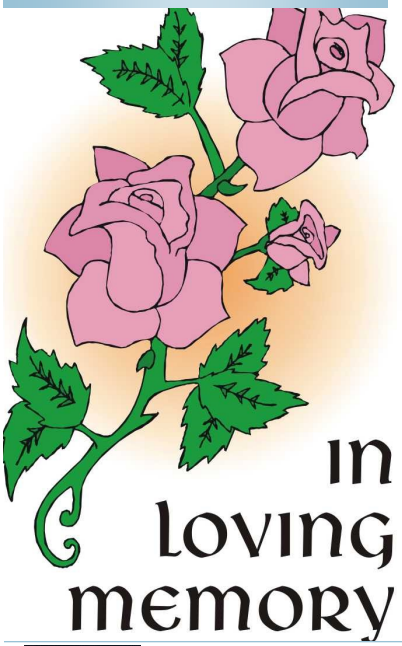
Special points of interest

- Church undecorating will be on Saturday, January 11 at 10 a.m.
- Pastor Nancy's installation is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 12 at Saint John.
- Violet Melanie Hunsinger will be baptized on Sunday, January 19.



Memorials & Donations

In memory of Dorothy Braunlich to current by Kevin Braunlich

In memory of Lillian Guise to altar guild by Ruth & Richard Green

In memory of Lillian Guise to the memorial fund by Kathy & Dick Kugler, Florence Hettinger and Ethel Witthaus

In memory of Ed Finn to the memorial fund by Janet & John Eastlund

Called to Serve

You are cordially invited to the installation of Rev. Nancy Rakoczy as pastor of Saint John Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m. Rev. Trubey-Weller will install Pastor Nancy as her last act as dean of our conference. The service will be followed by a shared meal, look for sign-up sheets at church.

"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."
— Matthew 2:10-11

January Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

3 Khloe Klatman
4 Gloria Balaza
9 Thomas Simone
9 Ruth Green
9 Brad Ferguson
10 Carol Dort
11 Jessica Pagano
11 Barbara Waldron
18 Phyllis Oehler
19 Connor and Dylan Wickline
20 Nicholas Waldron
24 Robert Ziminski
26 Kathleen Klatman
28 Marion Schurade
29 Frank Branciforti
29 Nancy Kamps-Cook
30 Quinn Anderson

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

News, Notes & Greetings

We received holiday greetings from many of our friends and former parishioners including:

Addie & Paul Szabo

Maria Zafonte, Ben, Noah & Caleb Levine

Deacons Gary & Lynn Weiler

Blessing of the Quilts

Thank you to our quilters - Margaret Johnson, Barbara Altman, Vivian Devens, Carol Kehrbaum and Renate Petschauer (not pictured) for making another batch of beautiful quilts. The quilts are going to go to children who have been separated from their parents at the border. They have been brought up to New York and are living in foster care in one of the five boroughs.

Christian Education

The Sunday School children did a fabulous job on the Christmas pageant, "Twinkle, the Christmas Star" on Sunday, December 22. The youth choir sang "In the Bleak Midwinter" both for the pageant and on Christmas Eve. The children sang "Go Tell It On the Mountain" at the 5:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.

Quinn has resurrected the handbell choir and they are working diligently on a song 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. There are plans already for performances during Lent and Easter.

We will resume regular classes on Sunday, January 5. Intergenerational Bibles and Bagels will return the first Sunday in February, Tom Sargent will team up with Pastor Nancy to lead that one.

Social Ministry

It's time for 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 for the New Life Center and the I.N.N.

We also delivered 166 lbs. of food to the New Life Center in December. All food donations are always welcome, please put them on the table in the Howe Room.

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.

These are all the Giving Tree gifts brought in by members of our congregation this Christmas, bringing joy to so many. Thanks for thinking of others & spreading happiness this Advent season.

Special gratitude goes out to Amy Wee and Linda Smith for organizing the gifts as well as to Linda Smith and Karen Brucia for delivering ALL the presents to Lutheran Social Services New Life Center. Wishing everyone at Saint John a happy and healthy 2020!

~ Barbara Waldron

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to…

* Michael Dwyer for helping with sound for the pageant.
* Tina Goodlin, Stephanie Kugler and Jennifer Pagano for helping with costumes for the pageant.
* Eric Sargent for creating props for the pageant and Melanie Bogen, Erin Dwyer, Nolan Mooney and Eric Sargent for filling in on several parts. Hudson DiTuri also filled in as acolyte.
* To everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas.
* To our Sunday School children, youth choir, senior choir, soloist Kristina Miller and director Quinn Anderson for providing beautiful Christmas music.

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.

Book Club has been postponed from January 7. Please watch for a new date.

The selection being discussed this month is "Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal" by Connor Grennan.

Shop AmazonSmile and Help Saint John

When you shop at smile.amazon.com and select Saint John Lutheran Church, Bellmore as your charity, we'll benefit every time you shop. You get the same great items (with your Prime shipping), the church gets a donation. It's a win-win!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please join us for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020 following worship. All the important business for the year will be discussed, along with review of annual reports, the budget and election of council officers and members. If you head up a committee, please complete and send your annual report to the church office by January 10, 2020 so they can be compiled for review by members. Child care will be available so all voting members can attend.

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Find us on:

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle is January 24. 2020. Please email articles to jcsargent@optonline.net.

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