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

February 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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
THANK YOU for the outpouring of love I received at my installation! I thank you for your kind and generous hearts coming to both services, in the morning and in the late afternoon! I'm touched by all the varieties of food that you made, too. I already knew there were good cooks among you, but you all certainly outdid yourselves. The desserts as always were spectacular. You also made my friends feel very welcome as well, which I do appreciate.

The day was marked by an especially unique offering of love. A special thank you to our music director, Ms. Quinn, who took the time to teach the children and adults over many Sundays how to play the hand bells. They sounded wonderful, and added so much to the specialness and the festivities of the day. Thank you, everyone who performed! I know it's not easy to learn something quickly and then present it. Just know you had a very kind and receptive audience, who were very appreciative of your time and talent.

It was a very moving day for me. It was as if the road with Christ unfurled before my feet in a new way. I have walked many miles with him already, and he revealed there are many more miles yet to be traveled. We will walk this journey together, you, me and Christ, encouraging each other, ministering to each other, and holding each other in prayer.

When I was in grade school we learned, "Going therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things as I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, even to the consummation of the world." Matthew 28: 19-20 See how Christ's promises are rock solid – I did my first baptism the following Sunday! Amazing grace.

Thank you again for your love, kindness and generosity!
In Christ, *Pastor Nancy Rakoczy*

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: Mr. Tom Sargent

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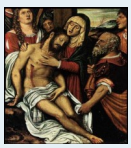
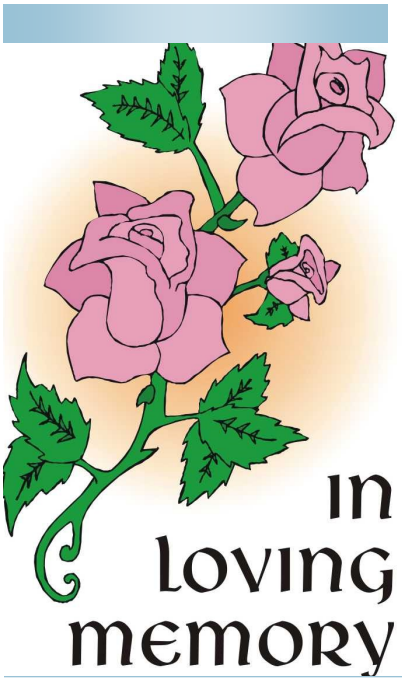
Special points of interest

- Watch for an announcement about the St. Patrick's Day dinner at church.
- The Passion play *No Greater Love* by the Xavier Company will be at Saint John on Friday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free, donations will be accepted.





Memorials & Donations

In memory of Mary Brick to the memorial fund by Carol Glen

In memory of Lillian Guise to ELCA Good Gifts by Jack & Barbara Waldron

In memory of Lillian Guise to the memorial fund by Carol & Bill Carty, Carol Glen and Tom & Doris Sargent

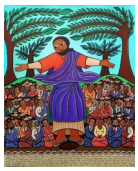
In memory of Ed Finn to the memorial fund by Fred & Margaret Lorenzen and Carol Glen

In memory of Walter Fricke to the memorial fund by Adelaide & Paul Szabo. Florence Hettinger and Brad Ferguson

Pastoral Acts

Baptism of Violet Melanie Hunsinger
Sunday, January 19, 2020
Saint John Lutheran Church
Bellmore, NY

Funeral of Walter Fricke
Thursday, January 23, 2020
CS Bartholomew & Son Funeral Home,
Bellmore, NY



"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" — *Micah 6:8*

February Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

6 Donna Boutet
7 Faith Dwyer
7 Ira Bergman
17 Makayla Mooney
21 Nicholas Harper
27 Carol-Ann Kehrbaum
28 Samantha Block
28 AJ Orlich

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

News, Notes & Greetings

Dear lovely, wonderful people of Saint John,

You are awesome and I am blessed to be here among you. Thank you for your presence at my ordination and thanks for the scrumptious pot luck! God bless you all.

Thanks from your new pastor, Pastor Nancy

Dear members of Saint John,

Thank you so much for the delicious cake and beautiful flowers. What a perfect way for me to cap off my last week as your secretary! It has been my pleasure to work with all of you over the last eight years. I will still be seeing you all on Sunday mornings and will enjoy just being a part of the congregation.

Thank you, Jeana

We also received letters from the New Life Center thanking us for the donations of food and clothing, plus 145 lbs. of food.

Get ready! Saint John has a puppet theater and will be performing, *The Life and Adventures of the Young St. Patrick.* The single performance will be on Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. Newly imagined by Pastor Nancy Rakoczy, the young St. Patrick is a pre-Harry Potter character who defeats evil and has a great time doing it. Come for the witty script and stay for the songs and audience participation. There will be a Scavenger Hunt after. Please put this on your calendar and tell your friends. It is **FREE**.

Christian Education

Many of the Sunday School children and confirmands play in the hand bell choir for Pastor Nancy's installation and will practice a new song for Easter. The children also sang in church on Sunday, January 26. Ms. Quinn will work with them on a new song along with the youth choir.

If anyone would like to join bell choir for Easter, please Quinn for information and rehearsal times. It was so lovely to have it back again!

Intergenerational Bibles and bagels will return on Sunday, February 2, led by Tom Sargent and Pastor Nancy. Please plan to join us, confirmands are required to attend.

Social Ministry

It's time for Heart Healthy for February - please purchase things like oatmeal, nuts, cereals, etc. and bring it to church. It's important to purchase food that is healthy and supports good immune systems. Let's see how much we can collect for the New Life Center and the I.N.N.

We also delivered 145 lbs. of food to the New Life Center in January as well as clothing and household items. 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.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 26 following worship. The budget passed and the congregation approved tithing the year-end donation we received. Members of the congregation who have suggestions as to where the money is donated can relay that to council members who will make a decision at its next meeting on Tuesday, February 11.

The newly elected council officers and member are as follows:
President—Tom Sargent
Vice President—Margaret Neverka
Co-treasurers—Ira Bergman (not a council member) & Jeana Dwyer
Secretary—Lori Vanderwaren
Members—Karen Brucia
Carol Glen
Nancy Kamps-Cook
Jeanne Lippolis
Marion Schurade
Nina Thilesen
Christa Tuccillo

Thrivent Action Team money – use it or lose it. I will be contacting a Thrivent representative soon who can tell us more about the $500 each member account has available to use in Thrivent Action teams annually. This is a wonderful way to expand our ministries and do outreach into the community.

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to…

* To everyone who helped undecorate the church after Christmas.
* Karen Brucia, Deacon Charlene Drewes and Carol Glen for organizing the dinner after Pastor's installation service.
* Pastor Emily Trubey-Weller for joining us to install Pastor Nancy to our congregation.
* Everyone who made or brought items for the installation dinner.
* Erin Dwyer, Ethan Kugler, Stephanie Kugler, Danika Puccio, Kevin Rollando, Aidan Sargent, Eric Sargent, Irina Sargent and Christa Tuccillo for playing in bell choir and Quinn Anderson for directing.

A big thank you to Carol Glen for her generous financial gift that will help repair the upstairs lintel outside the nursery school as well as a donation towards the next youth gathering. It is deeply appreciated by all of us at Saint John and comes in a most timely manner.

Book Club has been rescheduled for February 4 at Deacon Charlene's house.

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

Pastor's Installation

Pastor Nancy was officially installed at Saint John on Sunday, January 26 by Pastor Emily Trubey-Weller. Many members participated in the service, hand bell choir, senior choir and helped with the potluck dinner afterward. We also welcomed clergy from our conference and synod to celebrate with us.

Meet Janet Pescatore

If you haven't already, please stop by and say hi to our new Administrative Assistant Janet Pescatore. Janet comes with experience as a parish secretary from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (she's a Lutheran and serves on her council!) in Rockville Centre. Her most recent experience has been as a golf shop manager at the Seawane Club in Hewlett Harbor and legal assistant for the law office of Norman A. Sammut, Esq.

Janet served in the military from the time she was 17 years old. Though retired, she served as Yeoman Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy and was recalled to active duty after the 2001 terrorist attack.

She's a rescuer of feral cats and has four of them living with her and her husband, John. They enjoy hiking upstate and their dream retirement location is Moab, Utah where they have spent over eight vacations wandering the countryside and driving to remote areas. Janet loves to cook and bake. She makes many PA Dutch specialties such as Funny Cake and Shoo Fly pie. When she has downtime she likes to do counted cross stitch. We ask for blessings on Janet as she begins what I hope is a long and happy tenure with us.

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Find us on:

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle is February 21, 2020. Please email articles to jcsargent@optonline.net.

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