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

March 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 Corner

Lent is here. We've got our ashes on our foreheads, and as hymn #446 in the ELW says,

I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today.
My head is wet, and I'm on my way.
Christ's mark is on me; it's on you, too;
it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!

Lent is a season that intensifies our sense of journey as Jesus walks with us. During Lent, we read week by week he deliberately turns his face to Good Friday and all that it means. We see that the kind of murderous hostility and rage that King Herod displayed at his birth, has never gone away, and resurfaced through Judas and the religious establishment. As Jesus heals and offers reconciliation, he continues to be met by hostility, betrayal, pain, and finally death, but we know the story doesn't end there.

I'm becoming this day a saint of God.
It really doesn't matter what roads I trod.
Wherever I go, God's been there, too.
God's love has touched me and will carry me through.

Lent can mean renewal for us, as we take on Lenten disciplines for more time in prayer and meditation. Lent is a time when we ask ourselves, who should I forgive? With whom should I be reconciled? Our forgiveness doesn't mean we let the wrongdoer off the hook, as if they had gotten away with something. Forgiveness means we let God be the judge and deal with the wrongdoer as only the ONE who is divine can. Repentance means renewal as only God can renew us.

There are other saints who have said amen.
They'll keep me faithful to my journey's end.
Along the way I want to be
the kind of person that God set free.

Many blessings for a holy time of repentance and renewal, prayer and meditation in Christ. Amen. *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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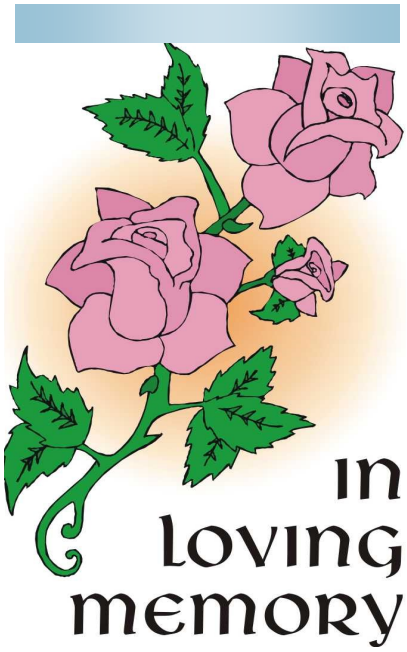
Special points of interest

- We will host a St. Patrick's Day dinner on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. as a fundraiser for the lintel (door) in Joyful Noise. If you have any raffle prizes you'd like to donate, please see Karen Brucia or Carol Glen. Watch for ticket sales at church!



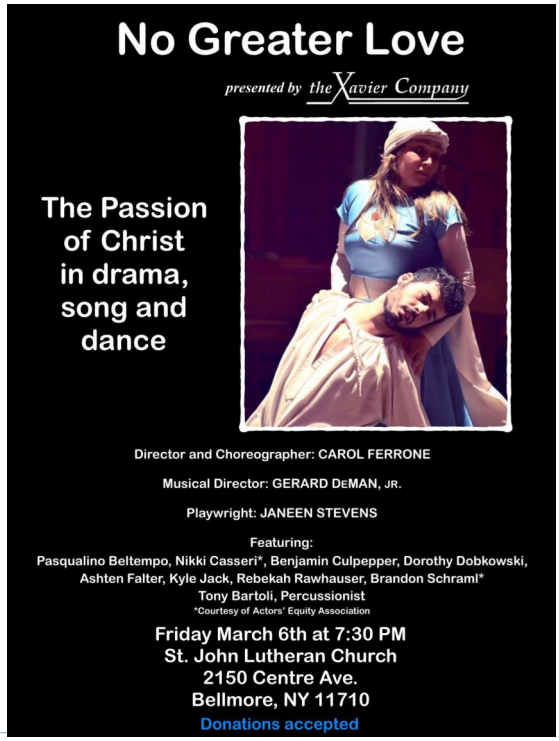
Memorials & Donations

In memory of Lillian Guise to the memorial fund by Eva Leis

In memory of Walter Fricke for lintel repair by Carol Glen

Pastoral Acts

Reception of new member
Tom Selvaggio
Sunday, February 2, 2020
Saint John Lutheran Church
Bellmore, NY



"...you are dust,
and to dust you shall return." — Genesis 3:19

March Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

1 Angel Zamora-Garcia
4 Bob Altman
8 Olivia Orlich
13 Aidan Sargent
14 Barbara Altman
17 J.T. Smith
17 Gail Tomasulo
18 Tom Sargent
22 Addie Szabo
22 Nolan Mooney
27 Jim Leys
27 Chris Kugler
31 Jeremy Robinson

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

News, Notes & Greetings

We received letters from the New Life Center thanking us for the monetary donation of $108, plus 58 lbs. of food:

"...Lutheran Social Services of New York serves more than 7,000 individuals in need every day. Your continued support of the work we do through this compassionate gift ensures that we can continue to fulfill our mission of encouraging and assisting all people to reach their potential."
– Damyn Kelly, J. D., president and CEO

Christian Education

The Sunday school children are working on a new song (including percussion!) with Ms. Quinn. Some of them will also play in the bell choir again for Easter, anyone who would like to join in is welcome. Rehearsals begin March 8 after Sunday school.

Intergenerational Bibles and bagels is on hold while we enjoy Soup & Sustenance on Sunday mornings in Lent. It will return after Easter. Confirmands are reminded that Soup & Sustenance is mandatory for them.

Social Ministry

Thanks for all the donations for Heart Healthy February, we delivered 58 lbs. of food to New Life Center. For March, we will be collecting the items listed below for Easter baskets:

Cake mix and frosting/brownie mix	Cookies/candy
Sugar/flour/salt/pepper	Macaroni & cheese/pasta
Canned fruits/juice	Mashed potatoes/1 lb. bag or boxed rice
Canned ham/fresh ham	Napkins
Canned vegetables/soup	Tomato sauce/spaghetti sauce
Cereal (hot and cold)	Pie crust mix and filling
Coffee/tea/hot chocolate/Parmalat milk	Pudding/Jell-o
Pancake mix/syrup/jelly	Fresh/frozen turkey, ham, chicken

Store gift certificates may be purchased in lieu of food donations. Deadline for items is Sunday, March 29, 2020.

We will also be selling Buck-a-Chicks after church during Lent to benefit ELCA Good Gifts.

Council Notes

The 2020 congregational council met for the first time on February 11. Many of the efforts being put forth by our new bishop, Paul Egensteiner, were discussed, and we also spent time looking at the Metro NY Synod Strategic Plan, called 2025 Vision. We also spoke about the possibility of a council retreat for group building and to review our mission statement.

To further our reach and visibility into the community we spoke about seeing what we can do to work with the Pride For Youth program, which has been a mainstay in the Bellmore area for the past 26 years.

Finally, and most importantly, we fulfilled the task assigned by the congregation at the annual meeting and decided on four organizations to receive funds from the tithe of the very generous anonymous gift. The organizations, unanimously agreed upon by the council, represent a global group (**Seafarer's**), a nationwide group (**Army Emergency Relief Fund**), a Metro NY Synod group (**AMPARRO**), and a local community group (**Garden at St. Francis**). Each of these organizations will receive a gift of $530 from the people of Saint John.

Thanks to all the council members for some thoughtful dialogue – and thanks to the congregation for continuing this fine tradition of assisting others from our gifts.

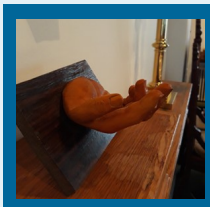
Tom Sargent – council president

Are you part of a committee at Saint John looking to plan an event in the Howe Room? Are you a Saint John member looking to celebrate a special day in the Howe Room? If so, please make our administrative assistant, Janet Pescatore, your **FIRST STOP**! She has the complete church calendar at her fingertips and can steer you toward days or nights that are free. You can reach her Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 10 AM – 1 PM at 516-785-4331. Thank you!

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to…

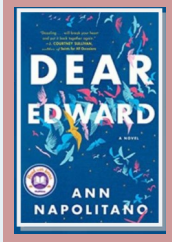
* John Neverka, who helped Pastor choose the materials for the puppet theater, and Bob Altman, Jim Strouse and Bob Mohlenbrok who put the pieces together.
* All those who have been practicing hard for our upcoming puppet show "The Life and Adventures of a Young St. Patrick."
* Karen Brucia, Carol Glen and all those on congregational life who helped put together our pancake dinner prior to the Ash Wednesday service.
* Tom Sargemt and Kathy Strouse, our pancake chefs, and Karen Brucia, Marion Elicati, Carol Glen, Nancy Kamps-Cook and Eric Sargent for helping with the pancake dinner.



Special thanks to Brad Ferguson for giving Saint John his beautiful carved hand, which is right beneath the cross of the resurrected Christ above the altar. The hand echoes the gesture of Jesus in the stained-glass window above, drawing us closer to him. Now we have two original carved pieces by Brad, one near the entrance, and one at the altar. Come closer to the altar to see this art.

BOOK CLUB

The next selection for Book Club is "Dear Edward" by Ann Napolitano, the story of a 12-year-old boy who is the sole survivor of a plane crash.



Date and location will be announced shortly, watch for it!

Upcoming Community Events

There will be a Lenten Ecumenical Service of Prayer at Christ Lutheran Church, Wantagh, 3 pm, March 15. Hosted by the LARC Dialogue of LI. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend.

On April 8, there is an opportunity to do an 18-mile walk with 12 Stations of the Cross from Jones Beach to Good Shepherd Church in Plainview. For those who wish to do a smaller walk commitment, there is a five-mile stop at Cedar Creek. Note: many scholars think Jesus walked 20 -25 miles a day, spreading the good news. Douglas Petersen is the organizer: douglasapetersen@aol.com

Lenten Services

You are welcome to come and join your neighbors at these churches and share in the Lenten services. Each evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a light supper of soup and bread or pizza, services start at 7:30 p.m.

March 4: The Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick, 2101 William Pl, Merrick, Rev. Moira Ahearne

March 11: Seaford United Methodist Church, 2160 Washington Ave, Seaford, Rev. Steven Knutsen

March 18: Bellmore Presbyterian Church, 2740 Martin Ave, Bellmore, Rev. Jim Barnum

March 25: First Presbyterian Church of Freeport, 178 S. Ocean Ave, Freeport, Rev. Moira Ahearne

April 1: United Methodist Church of Merrick, 1425 Merrick Ave, Merrick, Rev. Aldo Iyada

Holy Week services will take place at Saint John on Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Good Friday children's gathering at 10:30 a.m. and Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m. The Vigil of Easter is traditionally observed at Grace, N. Bellmore Saturday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Soup & Sustenance will be on Sundays following worship beginning Sunday, March 1. Please sign up to contribute soup!

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle is March 20, 2020. Please email articles to jcsargent@optonline.net.

Saint John Lutheran Church
2150 Centre Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710
Phone: 516-785-4331
Fax: 516-785-4331
E-mail: stjbellmore@gmail.com
https://stjohnbellmore.org/

Find us on:

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PLACE
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HERE