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

September 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 (currently online).

The Eagle

Pastor's Corner

To the members of Saint John –
I received the following letter this past Monday, August 24, from Pastor Nancy:

Saint John Lutheran Church

Mr. Thomas Sargent, Congregation President

2150 Center Street

Bellmore, NY

Dear Friends and Members Saint John,

After much prayerful consideration and trusting in the Holy Spirit's guidance, I have made the decision to resign as Pastor of Saint John effective September 1, 2020.

I have been in consultation with Bishop Egensteiner and Pr. Christopher Mietlowski concerning this decision. They will answer the many questions surrounding this time of pastoral transition, and will guide and direct the process. Furthermore, they will meet with the congregation council to discuss next steps for pastoral leadership.

I will keep Saint John in my prayers as the Holy Spirit leads you into the future of your mission and ministry. May God's presence be with you.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Nancy Rakoczy

I have replied to Pastor Nancy, and on behalf of Saint John and its members, wished her well in all of her future endeavors.

Please know that the church council is getting started on the "What's Next?" aspect of our situation at Saint John right away. On Wednesday, August 26 (the day those of you with email should be receiving this) Margaret Neverka and I will be at church early to check out space

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STAFF AT SAINT JOHN:

Pastor:

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

- Stores and restaurants are beginning to slowly open back up. Let's remember our local neighbors and shop there first to help support our community. Many local businesses are still struggling to stay afloat with the necessary restrictions in place to prevent another wave of COVID-19.
Shop local!

Garden at St. Francis Volunteer Opportunities

As the seasons start to change, St. Francis Episcopal Church is still looking for volunteers to help in its community garden. Located at 1692 Bellmore Ave., Bellmore NY 11710, people are invited to come down each Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 7:00 am until 10:00 am for the volunteer hours.

They also need volunteers to help run the Farm Stand on Sundays from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. If you can help with the Farm Stand, please contact Annie McPartlin at anniemcp@verizon.net. You can pick up fresh vegetables for your table even if you can't volunteer. FreshConnect and NY State Farmer's Market checks are accepted, which is handy information to pass on to anyone who might be in need of fresh veggies.

Finally, if you're interested in helping take care of the chickens, please contact the pastor, Rev. Br. Chris McNabb at br.christopher.mcnabb@gmail.com. Confirmands can use these opportunities for service hours, please keep track so you can chart them at church.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." ~ *Isaiah 43:2*

September Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

2 Zachary Dean
4 Paul Block
5 Vincent Branciforti
5 Irina Sargent
6 Krista D'Anna
20 Sophie Orlich
20 Michael Giordano
22 Jennifer Cline Sargent
23 Danielle Branciforti
27 Ashlyn Schurade
30 Robin Dowling

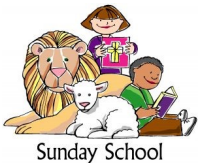
If you are celebrating in September and your name has been inadvertently left off the list, please contact the church office.

News, Notes & Greetings

Congratulations to Margaret & John Neverka on the birth of their new grandchild, Fleur Marine Rusk-Neverka:

From Lutheran Social Services of New York:
Dear Friend,
Thank you for your contribution on 300 lbs. of food and the $100 gift card, which is helping LSSNY serve more than 7,000 individuals in need every day. We are blessed for you and countless others who have supported our ministries, giving us the resources to assist our neighbors in need and improve thir lives. Thank you for the commitment you have shown to our programs over the years, you make lives better every day through our shared mission of service.
Sincerely,
Damyn Kelly, Ph.D., president & CEO

Christian Education



We are working diligently to decide what will be the best and safest option for Sunday School this fall. A Zoom meeting will be held for teachers and staff to have input and voice concerns. We ask for your patience and flexibility as we try to navigate this most unique school year!

God's work.
Our hands.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 13 is "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. While we aren't gathering together as we normally would, there are lots of opportunities to observe this special day with an act of service. Help a neighbor, work in the Garden at St. Francis, collaborate online or just call someone who needs a pick-me-up.

Throwback "God's Work, Our Hands"

Here are some photos from past "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday activities:

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to…

* Karen and Tom Brucia for counting the offering and depositing it at the bank.
* Margaret and John Neverka for their continued work on applying the state and local safety guidelines to Saint John.
* John Neverka for keeping an eye on the church grounds while we are absent.
* Margaret Neverka and Tom Sargent for working to figure out worship and learning opportunities.

Please hold our members and friends in your prayers who are infected or healing from the coronavirus, those who were already battling health issues and are more vulnerable and those who work in the health care field or as first responders.

Let's try to be kind and support one another in any way we can. Reach out via phone or email to say hello, send a card or note or have the kids do a drawing to cheer someone up.

Infused Basil Oil

Harvesting basil from the garden? Try this easy infused oil for salads, fish, bread and more.

Ingredients: 1/2 cup basil leaves washed & destemmed, 1/4 cup EVOO, 1Tbsp water, 2 cloves garlic, 1/2 tsp kosher salt, 1/8 tsp crushed red pepper flakes

Place the basil, water, garlic, salt & red pepper flakes to a food processor. Pulse a few times to combine and then add oil slowly. Use within 2-3 days, refrigerate if not using immediately.

This recipe is from *Skinnyrtaste*

Worship Opportunities

Worship is being provided online by our Dean, Rev. Micah Stumme, at this time. The link will be sent out Sunday afternoons and will also be posted to our Facebook page. The Metro NY Synod has also provided this link where other congregations who are broadcasting services online can be found: https://www.mnys.org/about/congregations-digital-services-of-the-word/

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for indoor and outdoor worship opportunities. We are also going to see what we may (or may not) be able to do regarding appropriate and safe space for Sunday School and Confirmation activities. We have been in a bit of a "holding pattern" for the past few weeks; Margaret and I are now able to look at prioritizing the list of pending items we have been waiting to work on.

In addition, the council is meeting the afternoon of August 26 via Zoom with Bishop Egensteiner and Pastor Mietlowski. We will be discussing, among other things, pastoral coverage and worship with the bishop, and to see how their ideas mesh with those we have discussed as a council. A time of pastoral change can be sad and filled with many unknowns. It can also be an exciting time which allows for new ideas and growth.

I want to continue to thank those who are able to send their offering envelopes in to the office via mail each month. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. Stay safe, be well, and call a fellow Saint John member. And go wash your hands!

Tom Sargent – Council President

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle is September 21, 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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