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

October 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 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

The Eagle

Pastor's Corner

Dear brothers and sisters at Saint John in Bellmore:

First and foremost, I wish to thank you for the privilege of being appointed as your coverage pastor at this point in your congregational life. I am grateful for this opportunity to share ministry with you as we pray and discover where God is leading. As you might know, I have been serving in Merrick for now 22 years and have had the pleasure of sharing many a memory with you in those years. As I mentioned in my remarks on the first Sunday that I was with you at in-person worship, we have an even longer history together dating back to when I was a seminarian. In my seminary days I supply preached at Saint John on a summer Sunday while Pastor Anderson was on vacation. What fond memories I have of that day. I don't remember what the texts were for the day or anything that was in the sermon, but I do remember the welcome that I was given and the community I felt around me with support and encouragement as a student for the ministry. I believe that speaks volumes concerning the content of your congregations' character, which as far as I am aware, hasn't changed much over the course of the years. Your community of faith grew stronger and was nurtured by every member working together along with the pastoral leadership of the time as well as being shaped by the challenges that life's journey tends to place in our path. Each of our readings for the past several weeks have centered on a change of heart – we heard this especially from the prophet Ezekiel, "get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!" [Ez. 18:31b] I realize how some challenges can really get you down – just look at what is happening in our country these days… a health pandemic; civil and political unrest; unnecessary violence and destruction of life and property; natural disasters… just to name a few things, let alone any-

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STAFF AT SAINT JOHN:

Coverage Pastor: Rev. Perry Kirschbaum

Office Manager: Ms. Jeana Dwyer

Deacon: Ms. Charlene Drewes

Organist & Music Director: Ms. Quinn Anderson

Newsletter Editor: Ms. Jeana Dwyer

Sexton: Ms. Kristina Kamps

Congregational President: Mr. Tom Sargent

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Special points of interest

Blessing of the Animals

Pastor Kirschbaum will be blessing the animals on

Sunday, October 4

1:30 p.m.

Due to social distancing protocols this will be a DRIVE BY blessing. Pastor will be at the Margaret Blvd. entrance of St. John's Merrick for anyone who wishes to attend.

Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets

Lutheran Social Services of New York

The New LIFE Center-Long Island, a hunger prevention site of Lutheran Social Services of New York, is already at work to provide a bountiful Thanksgiving Holiday meal for struggling families in our community. You can help by contributing items from the list below, which volunteers will package and distribute. THANK YOU and HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Juice
Instant Mashed Potatoes / Yams
Fruit Cocktail / Canned Fruit
Cake Mixes and Frosting / Brownie Mix
Ground or Instant Coffee / Tea Bags
Cookies and Hot Chocolate
Napkins
Pancake Mix / Syrup / Cereal / Oatmeal
Corn Mafines
Pasta and Sauce / Mac and Cheese
White Rice / Canned Beans
Canned Vegetables
Canned (chicken, fish)
Flour and Sugar
Parmalat Milk
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Jello and Pudding
TURKEY / HAM / CHICKEN
Supermarket gift cards are also Appreciated

Items should be delivered to Saint John by Sunday, October 18.

October Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

2 Caitlin Block
4 Nicholas Brucia
4 Kathy Strouse
7 Julie Robinson
9 Bill Schurade
10 Adrian Pagano
22 Renate Petschauer
30 Mason Venne

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

News, Notes & Greetings

Welcome to Pastor Perry Kirschbaum (who many of you know) from St. John's, Merrick who will be our coverage pastor during this transitional time here at Saint John. Pastor Kirschbaum presided over worship with us for the first time on Sunday, September 20 allowing the members present to receive holy communion together for the first time since March. What a joy! Pastor Kirschbaum will be presiding over worship approximately twice per month so that we may partake in holy communion here at Saint John. He will also be attending our council meetings and available to any members in need of pastoral care.

Congratulations to Bob and Barbara Altman on celebrating 60 years of marriage this September.

Sunday, October 25
Following worship

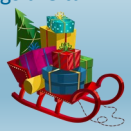
Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Chris Mietlowski will be the guest preacher during worship here at Saint John. He will be remaining after worship and available to meet one-on-one with any parishioners that would like to ask questions of the synod or bishop's office regarding the events of the last six months.

Christian Education

The Christian Ed staff will meet to discuss strategies and suggestions for holding Sunday School in a safe way for everyone this year. Please stay tuned for information, we hope to be able to start some form of learning by the beginning of October. We are so thankful for all of our volunteers participation and efforts since we know that everyone is quite overwhelmed with this new normal situation in terms of work, school and other everyday activities. Confirmation class is meeting via Zoom right now, please be sure that your child is logged in on time and actively participating so the lessons can be completed successfully.

The Giving Tree

Even in the face of COVID-19 the annual tradition of partnering with the New LIFE Center to provide Christmas gifts to those who would not otherwise receive them will continue Since things are taking longer these days, tags will be prepared and in the Howe Room by the end of October. We encourage anyone who can to participate as the need this year is greater than ever. Nancy Kamps-Cook will be organizing the program this year. Be on the lookout for further information.



Letter From the Council President

Welcome to fall! It certainly arrived, without question, on Sunday, September 20 as we gathered for worship in the low 60-degree weather. I hope this issue of the Eagle, being put together by our new/old Administrative Assistant, Jeana Dwyer, finds you safe, healthy, and well. Here is some information about current and upcoming things here at Saint John (in no particular order):

* As I write this, I am also getting ready to begin our first installment of Confirmation via Zoom this afternoon. We are trying to keep these 7 young people on track for confirmation in the fall of 2021.

* As mentioned above, this past Sunday was in the low 60's. The plan – at least through the end of October – is to keep the windows and front door open. When you join us for worship, **please bring a sweater or jacket**, because allowing for fresh air to freely blow through the sanctuary is most important.

* The reservation system for worship has been working out very well. Using the seating template developed by Margaret & John Neverka, we have been able to plan ahead and seat people safely and appropriately spaced. Please keep up this practice on the weeks you plan to join us. Remember that worship is at 9 AM!

* We have several church council vacancies coming up in January. If serving Saint John in this manner is something you have thought of, please reach out to a council member and let them know of your interest. Margaret Neverka and I would gladly share the particulars of this job.

* The next step for Saint John in dealing with the pastoral vacancy is to announce the creation of a **Transition Team**. We are happy to share that the following individuals have been appointed by the church council to serve in this capacity: **Deacon Charlene Drewes (chair/coordinator), Nancy Dineen, John Neverka, Jennifer Pagano, and Aidan Sargent**. They will review the current Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for Saint John, which is basically a "snapshot" of what our church and community are all about. Their changes, tweaks, new ideas will be presented to the church council for approval, and then that information will be forwarded to Bishop Egensteiner's office for their review.

* Several members of Saint John who are NOT on council and who have NOT been directly involved in the events of the past six months have expressed varying degrees of frustration over the lack of specifics shared by the council. Please understand that as part of the "Separation Letter of Agreement" between the Bishop's Office, Pastor Nancy Rakoczy, and the council (acting as your representatives) there are some restrictions on what we can and should share. In response to several inquiries about recent events, the Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Chris Mietlowski, will be joining us on **Sunday, October 25** to preside in a Service of the Word. Pastor Mietlowski is the person from the bishop's office that I have been dealing directly with over the past months, and he has been part of several meetings with our church council. He will be making himself available following worship to speak one-on-one with anyone who may have questions that they hope to get answered from the synodical level and bishop's office. He is also an excellent preacher, so I hope you are able to join us on that day. I will keep reminding you of his visit in the coming weeks.

Stay safe – be well – keep wearing those masks – and go wash your hands!

Tom Sargent

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to…

* Deacon Charlene & Tom Sargent for working with Pastor Kirschbaum setting up the worship schedule.
* Margaret and John Neverka for their continued work on applying the state and local safety guidelines to Saint John.
* John Neverka for checking the faucet in MATTS and the sticky pew
* Nancy Kamps-Cook for fixing the office AC.

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.

It is PUMPKIN season again. Those little "sugar" pumpkins don't just make cute decorations. You can make homemade pumpkin puree for all of your favorite pumpkin flavored autumn dishes.

- Heat oven to 400°
- Cut pumpkin in half
- Scoop out seeds and stringy flesh
- Place face down on parchment paper lined cookie sheet
- Roast approximately 50 minutes (until skin easily pulls away from flesh)
- Once cool scoop into food processor & pulse until smooth.

Online Worship

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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thing personal going on in our families as well as our congregation. It's easy to fall on the way side and forget who you are and why we are here. "Get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!" I realize things don't always look as rosy as we would like, but we can look toward tomorrow with hope in the promises of God and I am honored to share in that hope as we work together, find healing, and grow from our experiences to move forward in faith! I leave you with words from one of my favorite songs from Fleetwood Mac: Don't Stop: "If you wake up and don't want to smile, If it takes just a little while, Open your eyes and look at the day, You'll see things in a different way. Don't stop thinking about tomorrow. Don't stop, it'll soon be here. It'll be, better than before. Yesterday's gone, yesterday's gone…Ooh, don't you look back." Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers and that I am here for you should you need to talk – even just to get to know each other better. Let's move forward together in Christ!

Pastor Kirschbaum

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle October 19, 2020. Please email articles to jcsargent@optonline.net.

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Find us on:

PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE