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

November 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 Saints of God at Saint John in Bellmore:

Welcome to November 2020 – It's a month of change for certain! Did you remember to change you clocks "back" an hour for this first weekend of the month when we "fall back" gaining an extra hour of sleep? Sure, more time to rest, but less hours of daylight at the end of the day changing how we do everything and needing time to readjust… Did you make sure that you voted, in any of the various methods, casting your ballot in this national election for the Presidency of our country? The outcome will certain change us as a nation and our involvement on the world stage for sure… Covid-19 numbers continue to fluctuate and cause our hearts and minds and spirits to change on the whim never knowing and always being anxious about our everyday activities and encounters with others…at work, school, church, the store, restaurant, bank, walking near any crowds even possibly taking the railroad…Or do we just remain still in our homes…how did you change your family recognition of Halloween? And then our gathering on All Saints Day? – Thank God for the ability we have to be close in God's presence and yet still remain socially distant via the precautions taken at in-person worship and / or our live stream and recording of our worship? It might not be ideal, but it is working and we still, though separated, remain church together even in the midst of all this change…

How will this Thanksgiving Day recognition change in our families? Will we continue to gather, or keep things smaller than usual this year? What will become of a tried and true holiday tradition of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in the city and the arrival of Santa Claus? I hear that this year, Santa might be hunkering down at the North Pole and not be able to make his annual appearance in Time Square as he usually greets the children who long to sit on his lap… Perhaps, Santa might be planning a Zoom conference with families to

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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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Election Day is
Tuesday, November 3

Worship and Christian Education Schedules

Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

-Matthew 18:20

November Worship

11/1
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

11/8
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

11/15
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

11/22
Senior Seminarian Zachary Dean
Service of the Word

11/29
Pastor Kirschbaum Holy Communion

November Christian Education

11/1
Pre-K/nursery meets in Howe Room
K-2 grades meet in parsonage

11/8
3-6 grades meet in parsonage

11/15
Pre-K/nursery meets in Howe Room
K-2 grades meet in parsonage

11/22
3-6 grades meet in parsonage

11/29
Thanksgiving weekend—No classes meet

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

News, Notes & Greetings

November Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

1 Jonathan Boutet
8 Kristin Venne
12 Christina Brucia
15 Joyce Block
15 Derek Venne
18 Allison Ziminski
23 Michael Cline
23 Jeana Dwyer
24 Michael Klatman
24 Eric Thilesen
25 Thomas Simone
30 Jennifer Simone

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

Memorials & Donations

In memory of Edward Finn
to current expenses by Bunny Finn.

Donation of stamps to the office
by Florence Hettinger.

Lutheran Social Services of New York

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your contribution of a $300 gift card, which is helping Lutheran Social Services of New York to serve 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 in reaching their full potential.

We are blessed for you and countless others who have supported our ministries, giving us the resources to assist our neighbors in need to improve their lives. Gifts such as yours help improve the lives of our neighbors in need.

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 & ECO

YouTube

Now you can join us for worship with just the click of a button. Thanks to Karen Brucia our Sunday morning worship service will be streaming live on Facebook and then will be posted to our very own YouTube channel. Just click the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXNbB4vKpPjcIKWpwdUcXzw

or search for Saint John Lutheran Church, Bellmore and scroll down until they see our church picture and/or name. If you would like to be notified when new videos are posted, click on "subscribe" .

Christian Education

The Christian Ed staff met and planned a way to have Sunday school while keeping the kids safe. We are going to use an alternating schedule with classes meeting every other week to ensure we have proper social distancing and follow all regulations to have everyone remain healthy. The two elementary grade classes will meet in the parsonage and the pre-K/nursery class will meet in the Howe Room.

Teaching this year are:

Pre-K/nursery class, Mrs. Thilesen and Aidan ***(We are still looking for someone who would be willing to help put the craft together for each lesson.)***

K-2 grades, Mrs. Strouse & Mrs. Vanderwaren

3-6 grades, Jessica Pagano & Erin Dwyer

We will continually monitor the health situation and make changes as necessary according to advice and/or regulations from local, state and federal authorities.

Confirmation class, Tom Sargent - Right now, the confirmation class is still meeting on Zoom Monday afternoons at 4 p.m. We will look toward having this class meet in person again as space allows.

We are looking into possibilities for creating a pageant via video that can be edited together, so please stay tuned for that.

The Giving Tree

Once again we will be supporting the New LIFE Center's Christmas gift program. Saint John has committed to purchasing gifts for 25 individuals who would otherwise not receive anything for Christmas. As in previous years, gift tags will be available to take from the tree in the Howe Room. Gifts should be returned wrapped and tagged with the recipient's first and last name and age attached. Gifts should be dropped off under the tree in the Howe Room by

Sunday, December 6.

Please call Nancy Kamps-Cook at 516 712-5622 with any questions.

Thank you for your generosity.

Letter From the Council President

The one good thing about 2020: the time has seemed to go by fast. Here we are getting ready for November with Thanksgiving and Christmas almost right around the corner.

We have been slowly and steadily increasing our attendance at worship, with 32 in attendance on October 25 when Pastor Chris Mietlowski, Assistant to the Bishop, led worship. Pastor Mietlowski also stayed after for about 90 minutes answering questions of those who sought him out regarding the last 6 months here at Saint John. We thank him for making time for us and sharing a great message that day.

So, what's next? We will continue to hold weekly services as we are permitted. Now that we have a live Facebook feed each week followed by availability on our website and YouTube, this opens up a whole new option as we get into the colder-weather months (and flu season). Additionally, the church council made the difficult decision that we are going to pursue a recorded service, done jointly with the folks at St. John's, Merrick, for Christmas Eve this year. This is going to be one of the suggestions coming out of the synod office as we try to keep members safe. If we were to try to accommodate all those who normally would come to Christmas Eve (while maintaining correct social distancing) we would have to do 3 or 4 services, which is just not practical. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

We are still looking for several members to join the church council to fill the seats of those whose terms are expiring. If this is something you might be interested in, please speak with (or call or email) me and I'll try to share some of the responsibilities. The term would be for 2 years, and begin following the annual meeting in January. This year's meeting will most likely be done via Zoom.

At the recent council meeting we heard that our sexton is looking for donations of a few supplies. The two items most needed are paper towels and toilet cleaner. If you are able to provide either of these, please drop them off in the Howe Room – it will certainly assist with minimizing expenses as we head into the end of the year.

Until next time – stay safe, be well, wear your masks…and go wash your hands.

Tom Sargent – Council President

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 fixing the door to Joyful Noise, trimming bushes at church and at the parsonage, replacing lock cylinders on parsonage doors , disinfecting the outer wall in the office replacing the faucet in Joyful Noise, fixing the doorknob on the Joyful Noise door, working to replace water sensor in boiler room and closing the sprinklers for winter.
* Nancy Kamps-Cook for taking over the Giving Tree program this year.
* Karen Brucia for setting up our YouTube page and live streaming our worship service on FaceBook.

Donations Needed

The cold weather is upon us and our friends at the Soup to Nuts Kitchen are collecting gently used coats for distribution. If you have a coat to donate it can be dropped off at church any Sunday morning. Please contact Christa Tuccillo at

litlechristy49@yahoo.com with any questions.

Online Worship

Worship is being live streamed on our Facebook page on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. The service will then be posted on our YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXNbB4vKpPjcIKWpwdUcXzw

Or search for Saint John Lutheran Church and scroll down until you wee our church picture or name.

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share Christmas wishes this year?!?! Then, we enter a new liturgical year with the season of Advent on the last Sunday of November. Even in our church family life, things are moving, but not without change, although all good change, I pray! Many thanks to our Transition Team for all the work they are doing in preparing to move us forward in getting the congregation ready to reflect on calling a new pastoral shepherd to help lead St. John into another year of God's grace and for ways that we continue to seek healing and a new positive future vision that continues to witness to the gospel. Some pseudo-normal things keep us grounded: God's Word; remembering our baptism and that we are children of God; sharing in worship online/in-person and the Holy Communion; the blessing of our quilts for LWR; the fact that we have each other; that we continue to look out for those in need as we collect coats, scarfs and gloves for the winter season; upcoming baptismal preparation for twin boys and so much more! This sense of normalcy in the midst of what seems so chaotic keeps us grounded in the reality that the world changes around us but God remains constant for you and for me. Lean on His everlasting arms, the One who changes not. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers this Thanksgiving and that I am here for you as we continue to get to know each other. Let's give thanks to God for His unchanging grace even in the face of so much change around us.

Blessings in Christ! + Pastor Kirschbaum

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle November 16, 2020. Please email articles to stjbellmore@gmail.com.

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Find us on:

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE