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

December 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 Friends in Christ!

No matter how much people may try, it is not possible to take Christ out of Christmas! Christ is Christmas! It does not matter what others say or do in their efforts to put the focus elsewhere or even the attempt to convince us that we will have to cancel Christmas due to a health pandemic. Christ still comes among us – born into history like us… for we hear the words of the sacred scripture, ***"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."***

These very words, that never cease to amaze us, contain the whole Christian message! God became human, fragile like us, He shared in our human condition, except for sin, but He took ours upon Himself, as though they were His own. He entered into our history, He became fully **"God-With-Us!"** The Birth of Jesus, then, shows us that God wanted to unite Himself to every man, woman and child, to both young and old, to every culture and every language – to every one of us, to communicate to us His life and His joy. This is the message of Christmas: **The Word became flesh**. Christmas reveals the immense love God has for His people. This is a message of hope, a message of salvation, the old – old story yet ever new.

Allow me this opportunity to wish each and every one a warm, happy, healthy and blessed Christmas. Jesus Christ has come. All is as God has promised. Jesus came to set us free from bondage, sin and death. Jesus breaks the chains of sin that holds us in its grasp by grace through faith. No matter what the darkness, His light is sufficient. No matter what the struggles, His truth is victorious. No matter how many doubts, faith in Him is triumphant. No matter

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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

Worship and Christian Education Schedules

Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joy-ful songs"

Psalm 100: 2

December Worship

12/6
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

12/13
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

12/20
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

12/24
Correction: No in-person service at St. John

12/27
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

December Christian Education

12/6
Pre-K/nursery meets in Howe Room
K-2 grades meet in parsonage
Special Advent project

12/13
3-6 grades meet in parsonage
Special Advent project

12/20
No Classes meet

12/27
No classes meet

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

December Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

6	Danika Puccio
7	Florence Hettinger
14	Nicole Kamelhar
16	Jeni Janis
17	Karen Brucia
21	Sara Forchelli
23	Paul Szabo
31	Russell Tomasulo
31	Blake and Paisley Anton

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

News, Notes & Greetings

Memorials & Donations

In memory of Brad Ferguson
Purchase of wi-fi mesh system
By the Cline Sargent family

To deficit reduction
Tom & Karen Brucia
The Dwyer family

Donations
To memorial fund
Mary Brick

To organ tuning
Quinn Anderson

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" .

100 lbs. of food and $150 in grocery store gift cards were delivered to the New LIFE Center from Saint John to be included in Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. Thank you to everyone who do-nated to this worthy pro-gram.

Pastoral Acts

Baptism of
Michael Kevin Nocella
Nicholas Luca Nocella
Saturday, November 28, 2020
Saint John Lutheran Church
Bellmore, NY

Christian Education

Using the alternating schedule with classes meeting every other week to ensure we have proper social distancing and follow all regulations has been working well so far. Each class was able to meet twice in the month of November. Thank you to our teachers and parents for working with us to ensure everyone's safety!

Instead of holding our Advent Workshop in the Howe Room as in years past Margaret Neverka, who runs the program each year, will be visiting each Sunday School class individually with a special Advent craft for the kids.

We had hoped to create a pageant via video that could be edited together but unfortunately that did not work out.

There will be no Sunday School on December 20 & 27. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3, providing advice and/or regulations from local, state and federal authorities allow.

Tom Sargent will be looking to start up confirmation classes once again in the spring. Be on the lookout for further information after the holidays.

Everyone have a safe and blessed Christmas!

Days of Christmas Past

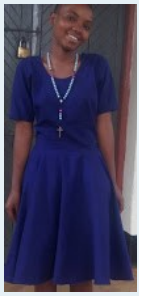
A Note of Gratitude

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 prepping the sanctuary for the organ tuning.
* Tom & Karaen Brucia for delivering the Thanksgiving food to the New LIFE Center.
* John Neverka for coordinating the replacement and delivery of the new boiler sensor.
* Margaret Neverka for planning and coordinating individual crafts for the Sunday School students to celebrate Advent.
* Everyone who brought in something for the Giving Tree program.

News From Tanzania

Here are the photos from October. Renatha was placed at a government high school (Bugene Secondary School) for her Form 5 and 6 studies ("A Levels"). We thought this was a great idea because - if she decides to go on to further studies – she will be eligible for government loans and assistance. This will give her more choices later.
I know she would appreciate letters from the members of St. John. It would be good to encourage her to do her best and enjoy her studies. (and be serious!). You all have been with her for such a long time! You can send them to me and I will get them to her somehow (I believe the US postal service has resumed its service to Tanzania.)



Thank you so much!
Gayle

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what our fears or anxieties, His birth into the world brings joy and possibilities beyond our dreams. He comes to give us hope. He comes to bring us peace. He comes to offer us life eternal. Jesus the Christ is born again in our hearts. This is my constant prayer for you in this holy season of light.

Imparting my pastoral blessing that you and your family have a Merry Christmas!

+ Pastor Kirschbaum

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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Find us on:

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

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