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

January 2021

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 on Facebook live.

The Eagle

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ!

Wishing you and your family a blessed, safe and much healthier New Year as we enter 2021 together. Certainly, still not the way we would have liked it to be and we remain filled with questions, concerns and anxieties with new developments with this virus – but we move forward none-the-less in the name of Christ, our DayStar – the one who guides us on the journey of life. I pray you wree able to share in viewing the recorded Christmas Eve worship with word, song and prayers to celebrate the Savior's birth. Was it ideal? – Of course not, but it worked and it was so wonderful to see our sanctuary decked out so beautifully…many thanks to all of our volunteers who helped to make this challenging year a festive celebration. It is my hope and prayer that you found some comfort and inspiration for the holy season.

Sad to say that we are still in suspension of our "in-person" public worship during the month of January, but we are thankful for everyone's patience and willingness to work along with church council for the safety of all our members. On the first Sunday of the New Year (Jan. 3), we recognized the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord (actually Jan. 6th) on the closest Sunday. We remembered the three gifts of the Magi who traveled from the East to behold a new king born in the house of David – the Christ Child. These three gifts would foretell what sort of person this child shall become and what kind of king he will be for you, for me, for the sake of the world…royal, holy, and anointed in humility and suffering as he gives his life as a ransom for many…as it was written, "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel,..."

As we move to recognize the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, we are reminded of another revelation (as with the gifts from the magi) that this Jesus is more than just an ordinary man – but one who is God's very own son – one who is anointed with the Holy Spirit from the beginning of creation. It is the same spirit who will move through Jesus' words and deeds and will move each of us as we hear the word that moves our hearts and lives in the sunrise of the Easter victory over sin and death. May this New Year be the beginning of movements of the Spirit in each of our lives toward a new vision of who we are as children of God, heirs of salvation and proclaimers of justice, mercy and forgiveness and above all, love in Jesus.

Imparting my pastoral blessing to you and your family this Epiphany season of Light!

+ Pastor Kirschbaum

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

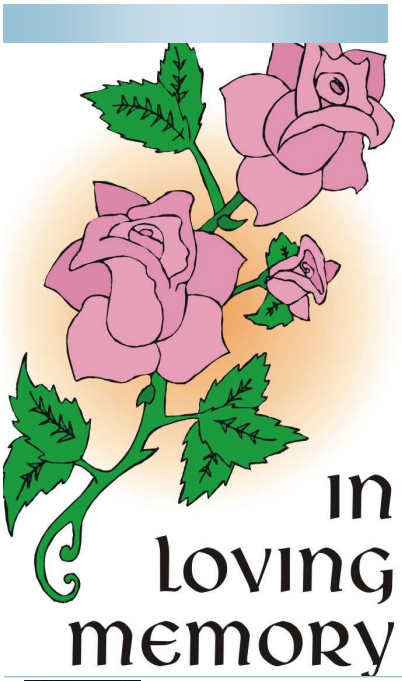
Sexton: Ms. Kristina Kamps

Congregational President: Mr. Tom Sargent

Inside this issue

Memorials & Donations 2
Birthdays 2
Christian Ed 3
Social Ministry 3
Thank You To 3

Stay tuned for information about the annual meeting!



Memorials & Donations

In memory of Dorothy Braunlich to current by Kevin Braunlich

In memory of Eleanor Drescher to deficit reduction by Robert Drescher and family

In memory of Ed Finn to Current by Bunny Finn

✝

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" .

"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."
— Matthew 2:10-11

January Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

3 Khloe Klatman
4 Gloria Balaza
9 Thomas Simone
9 Ruth Green
10 Carol Dort
11 Jessica Pagano
11 Barbara Waldron
18 Phyllis Oehler
19 Connor and Dylan Wickline
20 Nicholas Waldron
24 Robert Ziminski
26 Kathleen Klatman
28 Marion Schurade
29 Frank Branciforti
29 Nancy Kamps-Cook
30 Quinn Anderson

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

News, Notes & Greetings

We received holiday greetings from many of our friends and former parishioners including:

Addie & Paul Szabo

Maria Zafonte, Ben, Noah & Caleb Levine

Louise McNulty

The Giving Tree

This year we collected Christmas gifts for 25 people that made up 13 families. Thank you to everyone who took a tag and helped to make Christmas bright for these families during such dark times. The NEW Life Center was very grateful for our generosity. Thank you to Margaret, and our newest helper Rory, for assisting with organizing all of the gifts for delivery.

-Nancy Kamps-Cook

Christian Education

This year we had a modified Advent Workshop so that we could abide by social distancing rules and keep our Sunday School children safe. Margaret Neverka, who runs the program each year, created special Advent crafts for the kids and brought them to each individual class. Unfortunately, we needed to put a hold on in-person worship before all the classes were able to do their activity. Our prayers that next year we can return to our traditional model.

Thank you to all of the teachers, student and parents that worked to make our new model of Sunday School work this fall. This is a perfect example of Saint John pulling together and making things work under the toughest of circumstances. We cannot wait to get back to in-person worship and Sunday School and will let everyone know as soon as we get the go ahead.

Social Ministry

Thank you to everyone who donated gently used coats and clothing in November and December. Christa was able to deliver 30 coats and 4 large bags of clothing to the Soup to Nuts Kitchen. The people there were so appreciative.

We also continued our tradition of collecting food for the New Life Center in December with a special emphasis on items for Christmas dinner. Even though people could not just drop items at church whenever they passed by we still found a way to collect an abundance of food.

Please also keep in mind that New Life Center accepts gently used, clean clothing in good repair without tears, missing buttons, etc. As the weather gets colder, they have many people looking for winter coats, scarves, gloves, hats, sweaters and other warm items. If you have clothing that isn't being worn, please consider donating it.

Thank you to the following people for working behind the scenes to decorate, film, plan and present the special recorded service for Christmas Eve

Rev. Perry Kirschbaum
Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Quinn Anderson
Tom Brucia
Karen Brucia
Jennifer Cline Sargent
Irina Sargent
Tom Sargent
Margaret Neverka

If you did not have a chance to view it you may watch it on Facebook or our YouTube channel anytime.

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to…

* To everyone who helped with church un-decorating.
* To Nancy Kamps-Cook for picking up food donations from people's homes for the New Life Center.
* To Nancy Kamps-Cook, Margaret Neverka and Rory for organizing all of the Giving Tree gifts.
* To Tom and Karen Brucia who continue to count our offering.
* To Tom Brucia for serving as cantor every week.
* To Dcn. Charlene for being our sole altar guild member during this time.
* To Karen Brucia for taping worship and posting it on-line.

Giving Back to the Community

Our Webhosting company, ***Red Penguin***, is lifting up our community in it's time of need:

"While we often send a gift to our clients at Christmas, my assistant Maureen so wisely suggested that non-profits are really hurting this year, and so I have opted instead to make a donation in your name to The Book Fairies, our charity of choice…"

Thank you Red Penguin!

What a great idea! And what a great charity to support. You can find out about all of the amazing things that The Book Fairies support by checking them out at:

https://thebookfairies.org/

Shop AmazonSmile and Help Saint John

When you shop at smile.amazon.com and select Saint John Lutheran Church, Bellmore as your charity, we'll benefit every time you shop. You get the same great items (with your Prime shipping), the church gets a donation. It's a win-win!

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.

facebook

YouTube

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE