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

February 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.

The Eagle

Pastor's Corner

Dear Family of God at St. John in Bellmore:

Winter is here for sure! To say the least we are definitely being bombarded this year with snow, sleet and rain making it a scary mess. On top of everything else going on with the current health crisis, this wintry weather only complicates things more. In view of this, as many of you might be feeling the same way, I have been quite preoccupied in mind, heart and spirit about a variety of things that have challenged me personally, so I ask for your forgiveness especially in view of this issue of our EAGLE being sent so late…I realize how timely this issue needs to be…

February, the shortest month of the calendar year finds the Church cycle with the final weeks of Epiphany. Then, in the middle of the month, we observe the solemn day of Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17), the start of another holy Lent. Seems strange, doesn't it, that with all of our restrictions from the corona virus in the past year now, we have been going through an almost perpetual Lenten season (making sacrifices and giving up on a number of things) – so what will be different about this year? Perhaps the difference, although still scary and unknown fully, is that we are facing another forty days of valley wandering, not in total fear and bewilderment as last year – but with more hope and excitement about the possibilities before us as we move toward the promise of Easter in the liturgical calendar – the great 50-days of rejoicing, which we didn't get much of last year, we greet with anticipation as we look forward to celebrate this year! Many thanks to Deacon Charlene who will lead us in worship on that holy day and help mark us with an ashen cross…the sign of our mortality and yet, the sign of God's promise of eternity.

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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

February Worship

2/7
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

2/14
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

2/17—Ash Wednesday
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

2/21
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

2/28
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

Be on the lookout for information regarding the return of Sunday School.

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

-Matthew 18:20

News, Notes & Greetings

In-person Worship

In-person worship returns
Sunday, February 7.
Contact Tom Sargent for your reservation:
sarge318@optonline.net
516-659-8695 (cell)

Lutheran Social Services of New York

41 cans of soup were collected on "Souper Bowl' Sunday! Thank you to everyone who brought in a can of soup. We are still accepting soup donations throughout the month of February . Bring a can to worship with you or make arrangements to deliver you soup by contacting the office at:

(516) 785-4331
stjbellmore@gmail.com

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING℠

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" .

February Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

6 Donna Boutet
7 Faith Dwyer
7 Ira Bergman
17 Makayla Mooney
21 Nicholas Harper
27 Carol-Ann Kehrbaum
28 Samanatha Block
28 AJ Orlich

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

Christian Education

We thank all of our teachers, parents and students for their patience and flexibility with Sunday School this year. We are sad that current health conditions required that we suspend classes for the time being. We miss the children and can't wait to have them back with us both in Sunday School and sharing their voices on special occasions during worship. We pray for everyone's continued good health!

"[16]But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Luke 18:16

Return of the Book Club

The Shadow Box

***The New York Times* bestselling author of *Last Day* delivers a haunting thriller about how far one wife is willing to go to expose the truth—and the lengths someone will go to stop her.**

After artist Claire Beaudry Chase is attacked and left for dead in her home on the Connecticut coast, she doesn't know who she can trust. But her well-connected husband, Griffin—who is running for governor—is her prime suspect.

Just before the attack, Claire was preparing for an exhibit of her shadow boxes, one of which clearly accuses Griffin of a violent crime committed twenty-five years ago. If the public were to find out who her husband is, his political career would be over. Claire's certain her husband and his powerful supporters would kill her to stop the truth from getting out.

When one of Claire's acquaintances is murdered, the authorities suspect the homicide is linked to the attack on Claire. As the dual investigations unfold, Claire must decide how much she's willing to lose to take down her husband and the corrupt group of elites who will do anything to protect Griffin's interests and their own.

Join us Tuesday, March 2nd @ 7:30
for a lively discussion on this exciting bestseller!

Zoom info to follow on Saint John Information pages.

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.
* Pastor Kirschbaum & Deacon Charlene for switching at the last minute due to the snow.
* Margaret Neverka for covering for Tom Sargent as usher due to the snow.
* Karen Brucia for setting up our YouTube page and live streaming our worship service on FaceBook.
* Tom Brucia for actins as our cantor every week.
* John Neverka for doing a temporary repair to the back Joyful Noise door until the lintel repair can be done in full.

Our annual meeting for 2021 will be postponed until the warmer weather begins. The warmer weather will bring improved health conditions and also allow for the meeting to be held outdoors if necessary. Stay tuned for the date!

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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Let's not forget too, that on the Sunday prior to the start of our Lenten pilgrimage, we mark it with a day designed for transformation – the feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord (Feb. 14th) and at the same time, the recognition of St. Valentine's Day. We recall the awesome display of glory that Jesus "revealed" on that mountain top. Saints Peter, James and John were so captivated by His radiant glory that they wanted to remain there even longer. Jesus reminded them and He reminds us too that we must go into the valleys, the trenches, the streets and local communities where true ministry happens. May the love of God, revealed in Jesus, be that light that shines and transforms each of us as witnesses to the gospel just as our hearts are enlightened by the one who is our beloved (touched by cupid's arrow) in our earthly walk. We carry with us, in our baptism, the transfigured, the revealed, and the glorified Jesus wherever we go in in whatever we do to spread the good news even if we need to use words to do so. Let our actions speak louder than our words, we pray.

Blessings in Christ! + Pastor Kirschbaum

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle February 20, 2021. Please email articles to stjbellmore@gmail.com.

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