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

March 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 Saint John in Bellmore:

By this time last year in 2020, many of our congregations were already beginning the process of suspending in-person public worship within the first two weeks of March wondering what will Holy Week and Easter look like in view of this health pandemic. What do we do with the palms we ordered or the flower orders and will there even be an Easter service? Can you believe it? ... March 2021 recognizes a full year anniversary since suspended worship and ministry programs happened due to the virus. Yet here we are a year later and what is Lent like now? At least we can say, it has not been interrupted (only altered a bit from what we are used to) and we are moving forward in our pilgrimage slowly but surely.

We mark this time with the cross as we remember our baptism into Christ and find ourselves living out our "hope-against-hope" resuming in-person worship and offering livestreaming of our worship for many who still might feel uncomfortable in the building. As Tom Sargent often says: "Is it ideal? No, it is not, but it is a way for us to be Church Together while also being safe." So, even though things are still going to be a bit different this year, we are so grateful to God for giving us new ways to share worship together. We are more optimistic this year, even though we remain cautious, in the solemnities of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter.

This year our Holy Week liturgies will be marked by an invitation to worship together with St. John's in Merrick. Here are some dates to place in your calendar in advance … as we begin Holy Week on **Palm/Passion Sunday [March 28th]** here in Bellmore, our service will be typical at 9:00am. Moving along the week, we are invited to share in a solemn celebration of the Holy Communion at St. John's in Merrick on **Maundy Thursday [April 1st]** at 7:30pm. On **Good Friday [April 2nd]** there are two opportunities to share in worship, first we will share in the **Way of the Cross at 12Noon** and then later on share in **Tenebrae at 7:30pm.** On **Holy Saturday [April 3rd], the Vigil of Easter** will be celebrated as a cluster service, as in past years, over at **Grace Lutheran Church in North Bellmore at**

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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

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

-Matthew 18:20

March Worship

3/7
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

3/14
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

3/21
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

3/28—Palm Sunday
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday—March 28
9:00 a.m. Bellmore

Maundy Thursday—April 1
7:30 p.m. Merrick

Good Friday—April 2
12:00 p.m.—Way of the Cross
Merrick

7:30 p.m.—Tenebrae
Merrick
Easter Sunday

March Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

1 Angel Zamora-Garcia
4 Bob Altman
8 Olivia Orlich
13 Aidan Sargent
14 Barbara Altman
17 J.T. Smith
17 Gail Tomasulo
18 Tom Sargent
22 Addie Szabo
22 Nolan Mooney
27 Jim Leys
27 Chris Kugler
31 Jeremy Robinson

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

News, Notes & Greetings

Easter Meal Baskets

Our mission at the **New LIFE Center-Long Island** is to care for and uplift our neighbors. We are asking for your help in providing Easter food baskets for the hungry. These baskets are much more than food. They are a visible sign that carries the message of Christ's love and concern.

Items needed:

Cake mix/frosting/brownies
juice/canned fruits
Sugar/flour/condiments
Cereal (hot and cold)
Pancake mix/ syrup/jelly
Cookies/Candy
Mac & cheese/pasta/spaghetti
Spaghetti sauce

Mashed potatoes
Pudding/Jello
Napkins
1-2 Lb. bag or boxed rice
Regular & decaf coffee & tea
Hot chocolate/Parmalot milk
Fresh or frozen turkey, ham & chicken
Grocery store gift certificates

Donations can be dropped off in the Howe Room when you come to church or you can contact the office to make arrangements for another time:

(516)785-4331
stjbellmore@gmail.com

Please drop donations off by Sunday, March 21

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

Although regular Christian Education classes are on hold for the time being we are in the process of setting up classes for those students ready for first holy communion. The classes will be sometime after Easter with a date for the service to follow. We continue to pray that fall 2021 will bring with it regularly scheduled classes.

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.
* All the committee chairs for preparing reports for the annual meeting packet.

Easter Flower Order

Tulips _____ @ $9.00 each

Hyacinths _____ @ $9.00 each

Given by:

❒ In memory of:

❒ In honor of:

❒ In thanksgiving for:

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 28, 2021

Total: *_____ plants* ***x***

*$9.00 =* ***$***_____

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7:30pm. Culminating in our celebration of the Resurrection on **Easter Day [April 4th] at 9:00am** back in our own sanctuary in Bellmore.

As we continue our journey through these forty days of Lent and reach our midway point, St. Mark's gospel offers the traditional theme of "returning to the Lord" quite vividly portrayed in the gospel account of a familiar parable: "The Prodigal Son" or often renamed, the "Waiting & Watching Father."

Truly, happy are we that our sins are forgiven – for Jesus' sake! For when we experience the warmth of the Father's embrace, only then, will our "return to the Lord" be complete. At this turning point in the Lenten season we experience a sense of joy and anticipation in the readings that help us look forward to Easter's dawn.

Lenten Blessings as we follow in the way of the cross. **+** 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 March 20, 2021. Please email articles to stjbellmore@gmail.com.

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