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

April/May 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 Friends of Christ!

Since we are quite on our way into the great fifty days of rejoicing – let me formally take this opportunity to wish each of you a blessed and joyous Easter as we celebrate with great thanksgiving the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord at church this year! Certainly not as ideal as we would like it to be, but it was a grand worship service and for those still not feeling comfortable in sharing the "in-person" worship yet, we hope that you had the chance to view the holy liturgies offered via our Facebook page, website or YouTube page. I truly believe that we have been so blessed this year – even though it remains to be a challenging one – to have triumphant music, volunteers to set the altar, monitor the attendance, live stream video of the worship and most important to have the support and prayers of the congregation as we mark this Easter with some fanfare. Many thanks to those who offered special gifts for Easter flowers and for those that did early planting outside to help make a beautiful spring time witness to our local community…Alleluia! Christ is Risen, indeed!

Every year around this time I am amazed and delighted to witness the slow transformation of nature taking place right before my eyes…from winter into spring…from shorter dark and gray cold days to the warmth and increased daylight hours in a day filled with the colors of blooming flowers (like the crocuses and forsythias) and the budding trees coming back to life from a wintry sleep. Nature sure is something, isn't it? It was all put in motion long ago by a creating God who did not want us to tire of the same old thing. God placed us in an ever-changing scene that ultimately points to Him and His wondrous grace.

But, equally as impressive, and eternally more important, is the transformation that takes place in each believer's heart. In celebrating that Paschal Mystery, that is, the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus…the believer is changed from a life turned inwardly toward the self to a life turned outwardly toward others in service in Christ's name. In the victorious death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus, we come to find our true identity as one fashioned in that mystery of faith when we were baptized. We bear to the world the very image of

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Staff at Saint John:

Coverage Pastor: Rev. Perry Kirschbaum
Office Manager: Mrs. Anita Fiedel
Deacon: Ms. Charlene Drewes
Organist & Music Director: Ms. Quinn Anderson
Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Anita Fiedel
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

May Worship

5/2
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion
5/9
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word
5/16
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion
5/23—Pentecost Sunday
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word
5/30—The Holy Trinity
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

May Christian Education

5/2
3-6 grades meet in parsonage
5/9
Pre-K meets in Howe Room
K-2 grades meet in parsonage
5/16
3-6 grades meet in parsonage
5/23
Pre-K meets in Howe Room
K-2 grades meet in parsonage
5/30—Memorial Day weekend — No classes

April & May Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

April
6 Oliver & Deanna Paxton
9 Aria Kugler
12 Dawn Wickline
13 Nina Thilesen & Stephanie Kugler
17 Eric Sargent & Joseph Branciforti
24 Tom Smith
29 Lynda O'Keefe DiTuri
30 Kimberly Smith

May
1 Jennifer Bergman
2 Gloria Chapman & Kevin Ziminski
4 Hudson DiTuri
8 Jennifer Pagano
12 Patrick Bracken, Marie Orlich & Corey Bogen
13 Michael & Kevin Nocella
16 Ed Balaza
17 John Adel
19 Linda Smith
22 Nicole Pagano
25 Thomas Waldron & John Robinson Jr.

If you celebrate your birthday in April or May and your name has been inadvertently left off the list, please contact the church office.

News, Notes & Greetings

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

Sunday School Is back! Council has decided that classes can safely resume following the same protocols and precautions we had in place this past Fall. Sunday School will begin around 10 a.m. Please see schedule on Page 2 of this edition of The Eagle.

Next Book Club:

Wednesday, May 19th
7:00 p.m.
160 Commonwealth Ave. Massapequa
Hosted by Deacon Charlene

Please Call or Text if attending
516-330-6566

The Guest List

by Lucy Foley (Goodreads Author)

The bride · The plus one · The best man · The wedding planner · The bridesmaid · The body

On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favors, the boutique whiskey. The cell phone service may be spotty and the waves may be rough, but every detail has been expertly planned and will be expertly executed.

But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the champagne is popped and the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes. The groomsmen begin the drinking game from their school days. The bridesmaid not-so-accidentally ruins her dress. The bride's oldest (male) friend gives an uncomfortably caring toast.

And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?

St. John's Lutheran Church (Merrick)
Early Childhood Center is accepting registrations for the 2021-2022 school year for 2, 3 and 4 year old programs as well as summer camp. For more information please visit their website at www.stjohnsmerrick.org or call the Administrative Center at 516-378-4322 or you may email them at ecc@stjohnsmerrick.org.

Memorials & Donations

In memory of Ed Finn to Current by Bunny Finn

Lutheran Social Services of New York

115 lbs. of food was delivered to Lutheran Social Services from Saint John in March. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy program.

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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the Risen One in all that we are and in all that we say and do as we bear the light of Christ. How will you shine your light? Or will you flicker it here and there without it ever truly shining bright and strong? We are the presence of the risen Christ at work in the world – no longer is there room for selfishness, vindictiveness, rage, anger, or petty stuff; no longer is there room for sin, violence, jealousy, or even death. In Jesus' resurrection we have all been changed from dead and dormant to alive and radiant in our witness of the Christian Faith.

Spring is a great time to get yourself outdoors and enjoy nature's awakening. And Easter is an even better time to appreciate your spiritual rebirth flowing from the death and resurrection of Jesus to the waters of Baptism, to the altar, to your heart, to your hands, to your lips! It is a time to live what Jesus died for - - - life in all its richness and beauty. I would hope that during these 50 days of Easter, especially, let alone throughout the year – that we would all find opportunities to offer witness to ourselves, each other and to the world concerning how our lives are changed in Him and our sin has been forgiven. If we act otherwise, we remain in the dark cold earth dormant and dead in wintry sleep – but by his grace we are called to new life blooming within us that liberates us to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus by offering a part of us in loving gratitude and service to one another. Let us not be ashamed of the cross and the power of God's mercy that has opened heaven's gate for all who believe but stand firm on the foundation of Him who is the rock and cornerstone of our faith. Let us continue to build on Him and we will see miracles!

Imparting my pastoral blessing to you and your family this season of Easter New Life!

+ Pastor Kirschbaum

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle May 21,2021. Please email articles to stjbellmore@gmail.com.

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