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

December 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 in Christ!

As you are all well aware of by now, COVID numbers in both Nassau and Suffolk counties are increasingly becoming frightening following a new variant even though Delta seems predominant. It still remains to be a scary time for each of us and especially around a holy season such as Christmas to perhaps consider not seeing family or even gathering at the altar for Christmas Eve. Let us remain vigilant for our safety and for the safety of all our members and friends using our best judgment and yet also making sure we live each moment in the light of God's peace and light in the birth of the Christ.

Certainly in the view of all these things, tack on the horrible devastation of those tornadoes that struck several states in the mid area of our country, darkness always seems to pervade – and remains frightening. Yet even though we might struggle with this, and loss is real – those who are living in God's love welcome the light, the true light that overcomes the darkness. In this time of the year in the northern hemisphere, we

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STAFF AT SAINT JOHN:

Coverage Pastor: Rev. Perry Kirschbaum
Deacon: Ms. Charlene Drewes
Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Anita Fiedel
Organist & Music Director: Ms. Quinn Anderson
Sexton: Ms. Kristina Kamps
Congregational President: Mr. Tom Sargent

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Special points of interest

Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

St. Luke 2:14

December Worship Schedule

12/5 - 2nd Sunday in Advent
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

12/12 - 3rd Sunday in Advent
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

12/19 - 4th Sunday in Advent
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

12/24 - Holy Communion with Candlelight at 11pm
Pastor Kirschnbaum

12/26 - No service at St. John

December Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

6 Danika Puccio
7 Florence Hettinger
14 Nicole Kamelhar
17 Karen Brucia
23 Paul Szabo
31 Russell Tomasulo

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

News, Notes & Greetings

Memorials & Donations

To deficit reduction
In honor of Erin's confirmation
from the Dwyer family

To memorial fund in memory of
Tony Elicati from Carol Glen

To memorial fund in memory of Tony
Elicati from Karen & Tom Brucia

To current in memory of Eleanor
Drescher from Robert Drescher

Donation of stamps to the office
by Florence Hettinger

The Bellmore Union Free School District is beginning the kindergarten registration process for the 2022-2023 school year. Registration forms are available on the website at www.bellmoreschools.org. Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2022 are eligible to register their child. Please see website for more information.

90 lbs. of food was delivered to the New LIFE Center from Saint John in October. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy program.

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" .

The Sunday school children will have a Christmas celebration outside on the lawn immediately following service on Sunday, December 19 (weather permitting). The theme is centered on hope, with the verse from Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - as our guide. The children will sing a couple of songs (masked) and we will have a short devotion after they place ornaments each class created on the tree. Please join us! We are still in need of a couple more helpers for Sunday school, please prayerfully consider if this is something you can assist with in the new year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The Giving Tree

Thank you to all who took the time and effort to help brighten Christmas by sharing your gifts with needy families and to the Council and Pastor Kirschbaum for generously donating to fill in the blanks as we still had a few tags left to be filled. Thanks also to Margaret Neverka for her assistance in shopping and filling the bags with me!

Nancy Kamps-Cook

ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Please join us for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022 following worship. All the important business for the year will be discussed, along with review of annual reports, the budget and election of council officers and members. If you head up a committee, please complete and send your annual report to the church office by January 10, 2022 so they can be compiled for review by members.

Save the Date

Letter from the Council President

Hello All –

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving filled with lots of turkey and all the fixings. I can't believe December is already here – with 2022 just around the corner.

This past Monday the executive committees from Bellmore and Merrick met via zoom to discuss how to handle Christmas services. Here is what was decided upon collaboratively. We look forward to seeing you at whichever service(s) you prefer:

FRIDAY, DEC. 24 (CHRISTMAS EVE)

5:00 PM: **Family-oriented service with communion, candlelight, and children's service**
St. John's, Merrick

11:00 PM: **Traditional candlelight service with communion**
Saint John, Bellmore ** (see note below)

SATURDAY, DEC. 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY)

10:00 AM: **Grace, North Bellmore**

SUNDAY, DEC. 26 (FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS)

10:30 AM: **Lessons and Carols service at St. John's, Merrick**

***** Please note we have been watching the Covid positivity numbers more than double over the last month in Nassau County. If conditions dictate that we need a larger worship space we will make a change and hold the service in Merrick.***

I pray you have a safe, healthy, and joyous Christmas season with those who are near and dear to you. As always, should you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Stay safe and be well. Merry Christmas!

Tom Sargent
516-485-0677 (home)
516-659-8695 (cell)

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will soon pass the winter equinox, when the days slowly begin to lengthen and push back the realm of darkness bit by bit. So we welcome the Birth of Jesus Christ even in our grief, loss, pain, anxiety, things unknown – for He is the ***"Light of the World"*** who ultimately defeats the powers of darkness as we see in the first letter of John, ***"the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining."***

Christmas is a season of Twelve Days to rejoice in the light of God's promised salvation in Jesus that light will prevail in the end. Let us take comfort in the message of God to the world – ultimately, to each of us - ***"Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people..."*** Let the bright lights of this Christmas season remind you today and every day that God is in our world… that God is with us (Emmanuel) always even to the close of the age, and… that God's light will guide us to the truth, leading us into the fullness of joy!

Blessings of Light and Peace be to you and yours this 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 see our church picture or name.

Saint John Lutheran Church

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Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle: December 31, 2021. Please email articles to stjbellmore@gmail.com.