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

March 2022

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

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 Co-Presidents:

Mrs. Margaret Neverka & Mrs. Nina Thilesen

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends in Christ!

Saying that we live in a troubled world, is an understatement indeed! With remnants of deep seated concern and anxiety still over Covid variants; the push-back some who are just sick-and-tired about restrictions and seeks every single restriction to be lifted; inflation; gas and heating oil increases; fear about nuclear war erupting from the violent attacks from Russia to Ukraine and so many other things that cause our hearts to sink into another kind of isolation – yet with courage and conviction, we reach out to help those in need in any way we can to tell them they are not alone – inadvertently saying to ourselves – we too, are not alone… and the Holy Spirit brings comfort as we ponder then the mystery of Christ's passion in the midst of all these things. LENT offers the Christian various things to ponder and reflect upon. It is hard to fully comprehend the magnitude of Jesus' love and all He continues to give us. But, let us briefly focus on one wonderful gift – the incredible feast of Holy Communion.

Most of us know this wonderful meal by a variety of names, each telling us something important about what this sacrament is and does through faith. Martin Luther would remind us that this is the Lord's Supper because Jesus himself is both host and meal – it is the Lord's Supper and not the "Christian's Supper" - - - Understand that we come to worship not to

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Special points of interest

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Saint John Lutheran Church
2150 Centre Avenue, Bellmore

Come and join us to find the eggs the Easter Bunny left!!

Find a special egg and receive a "Special Easter Basket"

Photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny and refreshments for all!

March Worship Schedule

Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

"For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise."

Psalm 63:3

3/2 - Ash Wednedday
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

3/6 - 1st Sunday in Lent
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

3/13 - 2nd Sunday in Lent
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

3/20 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

3/27 - 4th Sunday in Lent
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

March Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

1 Angel Zamora-Garcia
4 Bob Altman
13 Aidan Sargent
17 Gail Tomasulo
18 Tom Sargent
22 Addie Szabo
22 Nolan Mooney
27 Jim Leys
27 Chris Kugler

News, Notes & Greetings

Tuesdays at Saint John we have created a ladies day out for anyone who would like to join us. It's a social gathering that may include bringing your crocheting or your knitting or we may do quilting if we like. We also play games and have light refreshments -individually wrapped cakes and Keurig coffee. So come on down at 12:30 on Tuesdays and join us for a little bit of craftiness and fun. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you all!
Any questions please call Margaret Neverka at 516 978-5270.
The 2nd Tuesday of each month we also make meals for the soup kitchen in Freeport. If you'd care to help.

Saturday, April 2nd we will be doing a long overdue clean up day here at Saint John at 10 am. Please come help us spruce up windows, kitchen cabinets and anything else that's been neglected since Covid. Please come help beautify your church for Easter. Thanks in advance for your participation

Finance Update

We are coming upon the Lenten Season and looking forward to having a new normalcy within the church worship life! During our Congregational Meeting in January, we approved a very realistic budget for our church. Thankfully, the PPP loan helped to carry us through the pandemic. Many changes have occurred during the last two years. Unfortunately, we have lost some members along the way for various reasons. Weekly, we have approximately 25-28 attending service. Hopefully, others will feel comfortable enough to return to in person service soon. Thank you to all those who gave faithfully during the pandemic and also to those who generously caught up when they returned. Recently, we had a financial burden occur. Not only did we have a $1,100 plumbing bill, but also $975 to repair siding and flashing from the winter storms. It is because of these unexpected bills that we ask you to prayerfully consider a special donation in your envelope to offset the cost. The council and finance team are constantly reviewing and making every attempt to maximize every dollar donated.
In His Service, Co-Treasurers: Ira Bergman & Charlene Drewes

Easter Baskets

Easter is a joyous and glorious time for us as we celebrate our Lord's Resurrection. For many, that joy is overshadowed by a feeling of hunger.

It is our purpose, at the **New LIFE Center – Long Island**, to care for and uplift our neighbors and we invite you to participate in building up the body of Christ.

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.

Please help by donating any of these suggested items:

Cake Mix/Frosting/Brownies	Mac and Cheese/Spaghetti Sauce
Juice/Assorted Drinks	Chef Boyardee/Chili/Canned Meat
Sugar/Flour/Condiments	Mashed Potatoes
Cookies/Candy/Snacks	Pudding/Jello
Cereal (Hot and Cold)	Napkins
Pancake Mix/Syrup/Jelly	1-2 Lb. Bag or Boxed Rice

Coffee Regular/Decaf/Instant Tea/Hot Chocolate/Parmalot Milk

Fresh or Frozen/Turkey/Ham/Chicken

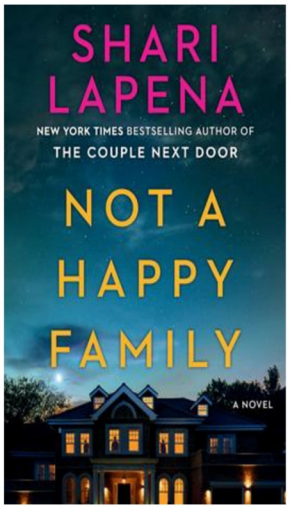
In lieu of food donations, store Gift Certificates would be appreciated.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD BASKETS ARE TO BEGIN MARCH 14th

AND WILL CONTINUE UP UNTIL EASTER

Lutheran Social Services of New York
New LIFE Center – Long Island

516-483-3240
www.lssny.org



Book Club is Back!

Wednesday, April 6th @ 7PM

Please text Deacon Charlene @ 516-330-6566 to RSVP.

Location will be announced based on attendance

Not a Happy Family

by Shari Lapena (Goodreads Author)
3.84 · Rating details · 70,940 ratings · 6,809 reviews

In this family, everyone is keeping secrets--especially the dead. Brecken Hill in upstate New York is an expensive place to live. You have to be rich to have a house there. And they don't come much richer than Fred and Sheila Merton. But even all their money can't protect them when a killer comes to call. The Mertons are brutally murdered the night after an Easter Dinner with their three adult kids. Who, of course, are devastated.

Or are they? They each stand to inherit millions. They were never a happy family, thanks to their capricious father and neglectful mother, but perhaps one of them is more disturbed than anyone knew. Did one of them snap after that dreadful evening? Or was it someone else that night who crept in with the worst of intentions? It must be. After all, if one of your siblings was a psychopath, you'd know.

Wouldn't you?

A big thank you to everyone who participated in Sunday's lovely baby shower for the New Life Center in Uniondale. We got snowed out a week ago but we were showered with many, many gifts from many people who either came to drop them off or they came to join us for coffee and snacks and conversation from Grace Church and even Pastor Krauser was with us. We enjoyed a lovely time and we can't wait to give the gifts to the new life center to bless the new babies who will be born! Thanks to all for your help to make this a wonderful event!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

"St. John's Early Childhood Center"

1 Van Roo Avenue, Merrick, New York 11566
Church Office Tel. No. 516-379-3858 • Fax No. 516-379-3681
E.C.C. Office Tel. No. 516-378-4ECC (4322)
[Website: stjohnsmerrick.org • Email: stjohnsmerrick@netzero.net]

✠ *The Rev. Perry J. Kirschbaum, Pastor* ✠
Mrs. Kathy Leich, E.C.C. Director

February 21, 2022

The Congregational Council
St John Lutheran Church
2150 Centre Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710

Dear Members of the Council:

I was quite taken aback when Pastor Kirschbaum called on Friday evening, February 18th to say that we'd be cooking for the soup kitchen in YOUR kitchen due to a plumbing problem in our church kitchen. I had just come home from setting up the Merrick kitchen with all the ingredients for the turkey tetrazzini we were going to make. In fact when Pastor called I was wrestling with the large turkey I was about to put in my oven to roast for the entrée.

My head began to whirl thinking of all the things I must remember to take and ultimately I sat down and made a long list of what was needed.

Since I am familiar with your kitchen through my work with the Merrick Garden Club which meets in your church, I knew where everything was and was comfortable working there. I have faithful volunteers and everything worked out just fine.

The Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank you for allowing us to use your kitchen, especially with such short notice and when you had an event the next day and you needed to prepare the meeting room for it. I do hope it did not inconvenience you too much.

In this difficult time it is so important for the neighboring churches to work together and I appreciate that your church was there for us in this emergency. Working with us as we cooked for the soup kitchen were some ladies from Christ, Wantagh and we value their partnership in the many things that Social Ministry does at our church. I truly believe that his pandemic has changed so many things, that to remain an important entity of our communities and to do ministry in them, we must all work together more closely in order to remain viable.

May you all have a meaningful Lent and rejoice in the great festival of Easter.

Sincerely,

Carol Schmidt
Carol Schmidt, Chairman
Social Ministry Committee

& Pastor Perry Kirschbaum
Council Pres. & Pastor

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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do something for Jesus, but rather to receive what Jesus does for us and what His word promises, namely: His sacred Body and Blood using ordinary elements of bread and wine. As Jesus' words testify this is the real thing, not some kind of symbol of what Jesus once did or mere representation of what happened on that night when he was betrayed.

The wonderful gift of this sacrament is the very sacrifice that Jesus extends to us. He did this once and for all time on Calvary's Cross. The forgiveness of sin purchased and won in Jesus' atoning sacrifice is now distributed to us as we eat and drink by His command and in His Supper. We come to receive the benefits of Christ's saving death – forgiveness, life, and salvation!

Saint Paul reminds us in his first letter to those Christians in Corinth [1 Cor. 10:16] ***"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?"***

This, the Lord's Supper, is our foretaste of Heaven right here on earth – the ordinary of our everyday life – connected to the extraordinary of divine promise enabling our believing hearts to behold God in the sacrament – for with Jesus' true body and true blood, the Lord promises us that in death we live forever! We live even as the Lamb lives and reigns at the heavenly feast that knows no ending.

As a part of our Lenten discipline and observance, I invite you to continue to share in this blessed gift to strengthen your faith and growth in grace as we walk the road of sorrows to the empty tomb of Easter's dawn. If you have not returned to reception of communion or are withholding yourself from it – you are only starving your faith until it becomes dried and brittle and can eventually die without hope… give yourself, your heart and soul the hope and promise God declares – don't allow the cares, fears and anxieties of the world get in the way of God's love "given and shed for you!"

My dear sisters and brothers, let us all celebrate the feast of God's love in Christ for the salvation of the world. As the song goes…. ***"You came from heaven to earth to show the way – from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay – from the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky – Lord, I lift your name on high!"***

Blessings in the name of the suffering One, Christ our Lord.

X 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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Bellmore, NY 11710

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https://stjohnbellmore.org/

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle: March 28, 2022. Please email articles to stjbellmore@gmail.com.

Join us **each Wednesday during Lent** as our "3" Church Congregational Family gathers @ **7:30pm –** hosted by **Saint John, Bellmore**: We will share in a prayerful devotion with a focus on stories of Jesus' life from the gospel according to St. Luke – similar in fashion the rosary – but altered to our Lutheran tradition.