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

May 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

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends in Christ!

Just love the spring time, don't you? Short as it often is, everything slowly begins to come alive – bursting with colors and fresh new green leaves and bright green grass freshly mowed (although horrible for the allergies - LOL) makes for a great deep breath of God's goodness… even the other day I was enchanted by the frolicking of two bunnies in the front yard of the parsonage in Merrick… it was quite the adorable scene… something you don't really see too often… Springtime in our east coast region often coincides nicely with Easter and in the changing of the seasons from greyish dormant trees and grounds – now bursting forth with vibrant colors and a fresh clear air of joy – you might even say that **the resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything!**

Yes indeed, Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia! **The resurrection of our Lord Jesus did change, does change and forever changes everything that truly matters!** When Jesus rose from the dead, our eternity changed for the better - - much better. The empty tomb changes our eventual tombs. Death itself is defeated in Jesus Christ. Because He lives, we too shall live forever and for sure. This is a huge change when we weigh the alternatives and it gives a lasting hope - - a living hope in the face of so many challenges in life, both personally and within our congregations throughout the Synod. The world around us may be changing – yet the one thing that never changes is God's promise for you in the risen Christ!

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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 Co-Presidents:

Mrs. Margaret Neverka & Mrs. Nina Thilesen

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Special points of interest

Community Blood Drive

Saturday, May 14th
From 8 am to 2 pm in the Sacred Heart school gym
720 Merrick Avenue
If you would like to schedule an appointment to donate please call Tanya
(516) 306-8129
Walk-ins accommodated as space allows.

Please come share the gift of life.

Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you…..Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid"

St. John 14:27a & c

May Worship Schedule

5/1 - 3rd Sunday of Easter
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

5/8 - 4th Sunday of Easter
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

5/15 - 5th Sunday of Easter
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

5/22 - 6th Sunday of Easter
Deacon Charlene
Service of the Word

5/29 - 7th Sunday of Easter
Pastor Kirschbaum
Holy Communion

May Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

1 Jennifer Bergman
2 Kevin Ziminski
4 Hudson DiTuri
8 Jennifer Pagano
12 Corey Bogen
16 Ed Balaza
22 Nicole Pagano

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

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.

Thank you to Carol Glen who dropped of 122 lbs. of food collected for the New Life Center for Easter.

Thank you to Florence Hettinger who donated stamps to the office. Always appreciated :)

The Good Friday gathering was attended by 11 of our Sunday school children. We created stained glass crosses, Easter eggs, sun catchers, scratch art & the infamous resurrection cookies. Deacon Charlene read the story of Holy Week and Easter to the kids with the help of the resurrection egg set. Special thanks to Tina Goodlin, Deacon Charlene, Jerilyn Hunsinger, Stephanie Kugler, Jen Pagano, Aidan, Eric & Irina Sargent, Kathy Strouse and Christa Tuccillo for their help. The last day of Sunday school will be Sunday, May 22 for this school year.

A great time was had by all who joined us from Grace, St. John's Bellmore, and St. John Merrick. Thanks to the crew who helped to make this event an overwhelming success.

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This is change we can live with and a change we could never live without! Jesus Christ is the ultimate and permanent victory that changes everything forever. The gospel message stands – proclaiming a God who promises, **"surprises – wonders – and – possibilities."** This was witnessed in the ordination of two candidates to the holy office of the Ministry of Word & Sacrament – especially a son of our congregation, **Zachary Dean** – now ordained and ready to be officially installed as the new Pastoral Shepherd of **Calvary Lutheran Church in Hauppauge.** It was a wonderful liturgical celebration at the Melville Marriott and it was terrific to have had members of Saint John present to offer their prayers. We also offered a special gift to the Reverend Zachary Dean, on behalf of our congregation, a white chasuble & stole set for his ordination. We pray he will use it in good health, toward the glory of God and think of Saint John, Bellmore every time he wears it.

Easter changed everything that finally matters. Because Christ Jesus lives, we too shall live! This promise is assured through our active, yet frail, participation in the use of the means of grace – Word & Sacrament – where it is not a mere representation or symbol of God's presence - - (like the cross or a mountain or even an eagle in flight) but God's very tangible, sacred, real and mysterious presence with us through Water – Word – Bread and Wine – among us by the power of the Holy Spirit… to call, gather, enlighten and sanctify us in communion with all the saints. There is nothing in the earthly life that can change that truth or turn back that victory won for us.

In the name of the risen and ascended Christ! Alleluia!

✠ 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

2150 Centre Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710

Phone: 516-785-4331
Fax: 516-785-4331
E-mail: stjbellmore@gmail.com
https://stjohnbellmore.org/

Deadline for the next issue of The Eagle: May 27, 2022. Please email articles to stjbellmore@gmail.com.

Good Friday Sunday School Gathering