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

Late Fall 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.

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

The Eagle

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends in Christ!

Greetings to you all in the name of the One who was crucified and was raised for our salvation: Christ the King! As you read this "late" edition of our newsletter – many of you (hopefully) have been attending worship or watching it online via Facebook or YouTube – catching the updates on how things are going these days by viewing the announcements as recorded in the bulletin each week and/or the verbal announcements concerning our financial situation and continued predicament that our congregation (and 2 others in our conference closest to us) are facing. Moving from the Summer to the Fall, as typical, we hoped to have a larger attendance at worship with folks returning after their vacation schedules and would see a more stable offering to support the budget we had voted upon last Annual Meeting…but as the leaves are falling and the wind is blowing – so our attendance has decreased, offerings have fallen and support of the ministry here in Bellmore is becoming increasingly challenging.

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Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

September/October/ November Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

September
2 Zachary Dean
5 Irina Sargent
20 Michael Giordano
22 Jennifer Cline Sargent
27 Ashlyn Schurade

October
4 Nicholas Brucia
4 Kathy Strouse
9 Bill Schurade
10 Adrian Pagano
22 Renate Petschauer

November
12 Christina Brucia
18 Allison Ziminski
23 Michael Cline
23 Jeana Dwyer
24 Eric Thilesen

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

The Giving Tree

Once again we will be supporting the New LIFE Center's Christmas gift program. Saint John has committed to purchasing gifts for individuals who would otherwise not receive anything for Christmas. As in previous years, gift tags will be available to take from the tree in the Howe Room. Gifts should be returned wrapped and tagged with the recipient's first and last name and age attached. Gifts should be dropped off under the tree in the Howe Room by

Sunday, November 20

Please call Nancy Kamps-Cook at 516 712-5622 with any questions.

Thank you for your generosity.

News, Notes & Greetings

To Florence Hettinger for her donation of stamps to the office - Always appreciated!

"Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name."
Psalm1100:4

Join us at Saint John while we share in 3 prayer services and a special Eucharist known as the Longest Night Liturgy (aka Blue Christmas). Wednesday evenings during advent at 7:30p.m. on Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, 14th. On December 21st, the Holy Communion will be offered.

Sunday school is back in full swing for the 2022-23 school year. We held our Rally Day on Sun, September 18 with a "God's Work, Our Hands" theme. The students, along with some help from some of the teachers and other adults, weeded and cleaned out the gardens, planted mums and replanted bulbs the squirrels had dug up. Regular classes began September 25 following worship. Special thanks to Margaret Neverka, Jen Pagano, Stephanie Rollando, Tom Sargent, Christa Tuccillo and Nina Thilesen for gardening assistance! Our teachers for this year are as follows: Pre-K class - Aidan Sargent, K-2 class - Kathy Strouse and Lori Vanderwaren, 3-6 class - Melissa Milaccio (on medical leave right now) and Jen Pagano. We could use some assistance with the older class until Melissa is feeling better and up to teaching. We are excited to announce that confirmation will be taught jointly with Grace Lutheran Church in N. Bellmore two Sundays a month as part of our plan to join resources where it makes sense. Confirmands are reminded that they should attend church the other Sundays as well as holidays. If anyone is interested in helping out by substitute teaching or assisting with Sunday school, please see Jennifer Cline Sargent.

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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Church Council is grateful for the support of a core group of members, and have been watching the reports of the treasurer carefully only to discover that we have entered a time of crisis. This Thanksgiving, even in the face of hard times, we give thanks for the shared ministry we have started between our "3" closest churches – all of us experiencing similar challenges and in need of addressing this crisis.

For the past year and a half, as you might be well aware, leadership from each of our "3" Churches has been meeting regularly to share conversation about various areas of ministry and the potentiality of what could happen as we intentionally deepen our relationships with each other. Yes, it's been a different experience for sure, but a positive one at that. This shared experience could lead us to a totally new vision of what ministry together might look like in the weeks, months and years ahead of us. A team representing all "3" congregations created a new Mission and Vision Statement with a Resolution to be voted upon by all "3" Churches in order to make a more formal and intentional journey to see what God has in store for our faith families in the Bellmore & Merrick community.

We would love to have you be a part of making that decision. The Summary with Resolution and statements were first offered at a joint service on Sun., Nov. 20th – if you would like to ask a question, share your concerns – please feel free to call me and I would be honored to share some time with you about this "3" Church endeavor… or if you would like to come to a discussion, please join Grace, N. Bellmore after their 9:30 worship – or – St. John's, Merrick after their 10:30 worship on Sunday Dec. 4th - Look for a mailing via email as well as snail mail with that summary or pick up a copy in the narthex. Let's Talk!

"Late Fall" Greetings & Thanksgiving Blessings in Christ!
X Pastor Kirschbaum