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

Advent & Christmas Greetings to you all in the name of the Christ Child born in history and once again in our hearts this season!

As you read this "late" edition of our newsletter – once again – a good deal of things have been happening in, with and through us as we approach a new year together in the Bellmore/Merrick community. First and foremost, we were able to share in our Sunday School Christmas Pageant this year, which we have not been able to for some time since covid. It was wonderful and our children did a fantastic job – each looking out for one another and singing so brightly you just couldn't help but smile. Secondly, of course as you know, we shared in a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2022 following our worship for the day. We had one agenda item that needed to be addressed. The item addressed the current shared ministry we have nurtured between our "3" churches and to take a first step in the process of consolidation (some would call it: merger) by affirming new Mission and Vision statements for a new church to be born.

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Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

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.

The Giving Tree

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The Giving Tree gifts have all been received and delivered to the New Life Center for the gift recipients. Many thanks to all who generously donated so expediently under short notice!

Please join us for the **Annual Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, January 29, 2023 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 9, 2023 so they can be compiled for review by members.

News, Notes & Greetings

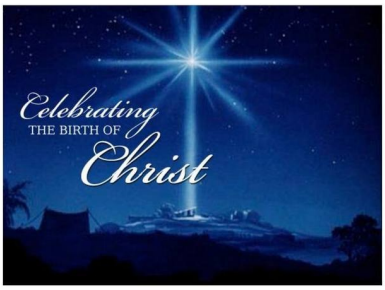
To Florence Hettinger for her donation of stamps to the office - Always appreciated!

"Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."
Isaiah 7:14

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.

The students have worked so hard for our Christmas pageant, “Night Alive” on Sunday, December 18 . We were very excited to bring the pageant back after a two-year hiatus due to COVID and we are so proud of them as the pageant was just beautiful! The children also participated in the Advent workshop on Sunday, December 4. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to continuing with regular lessons and a youth choir in 2023.

COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT OUR CHURCHES



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE @ Saint John, Bellmore – 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7th – Advent Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesday, December 14th – Advent Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesday, December 21st – “The Longest Night” (Blue Christmas) with Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th
5:00 pm
Grace Lutheran
St. John’s, Merrick

10:00 pm
Grace Lutheran
Saint John, Bellmore

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25th – 10:00 am
Grace Lutheran

NEW YEAR’S DAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st – 10:00 am
St. John’s Merrick

EPIPHANY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5th – 7:30 pm
Saint John, Bellmore

Grace Lutheran Church
1294 Bellmore Ave
N. Bellmore

Saint John, Bellmore
2150 Centre Ave
Bellmore

St. John’s, Merrick
1 Van Roo Ave
Merrick

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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We are very grateful for all those who joined us for that Special Meeting. The resolution to commit to combining our congregation with our faith families of Grace in North Bellmore and St. John's in Merrick was **approved unanimously**. As you know, each of our "3" churches voted on the same issue, with the same words on the same date…making the moment, perhaps a bit tense, but exciting and quite symbolic…revealing that each congregation adopted the same resolution with the same unanimous support. Through these affirmations, God has set us upon a venture whose ending we cannot yet see. There are still many questions and concerns, but the work has yet to begin. In the coming year we will slowly start to encounter God's supporting hand and love leading us into this new vision and our new life taking shape together as we continue our calling to provide the proclamation of our Lord and his message of salvation in Bellmore/Merrick community.

This Advent & Christmas season, especially in the face of hard times and difficult decisions, we give thanks for the promise of a Savior – Immanuel – "God with Us" praying for good courage as we begin to make our way through the wilderness into the promised land of growing together and implementing an active plan for our future. Looking forward to share Christmas worship with you!

Advent & Christmas Blessings
X Pastor Kirschbaum