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

January 2024

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!

Can you believe it?!? … how quickly the month of January is flying by and our newsletter still hasn't reached your email in-box or snail-mail letter box? Well, before the month ends – let me take this opportunity to remind you why we come together… and how much I long to share these moment of revelation with each of you. It was a star that led the Magi to the infant Jesus – as we celebrated the Epiphany of our Lord – and it was a brilliant light that shone about him, transfiguring Jesus' countenance that brought a new understanding to those disciples on the mountain peak – and it was a voice that spoke at Jesus' baptism and that same voice that spoke again upon the mountain peak proclaiming him as Son of God, the beloved… and we who hear his voice are called to follow him. Entering this new year of 2024 calls us again to follow the ONE whose star leads the way in our everyday lives so that we too behold the Christ, the Son of God, our Savior in word and sacrament and in the gathered assembly.

This New Year marks again much change, decisions, challenge and excitement as the Bellmore/Merrick Lutheran Witness marks another great milestone in selecting a new name for our soon-to-be consolidated congregation. It is our hope and prayer that every member, in good standing, has prayed for the Spirit's guidance and participated in voting on a new identity for our faith-filled witness of the gospel in this community The voting will take place in-person each of the Sundays in January with the 28th as the final day to cast a vote.

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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

Congregational Council President: Mrs. Margaret Neverka

Food Collection

We are collecting non-perishable food items to assist the food pantries of Merrick and the New Life Center in Uniondale.

We are also collecting cleaning items for use by the church to save money on expenses. If you are able to donate toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, hand soap, trash bags, etc.,.it would be greatly appreciated! Thank You!

Welcome to Worship
9:00 am

January Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

4	Gloria Balaza
10	Carol Dort
11	Jessica Pagano
18	Phyllis Oehler
24	Robert Ziminski
28	Marion Schurade
29	Nancy Kamps-Cook
30	Quinn Anderson

Sunday, February 11 is "Souper Bowl" Sunday. Starting on that day and throughout the month of February we will be collecting cans of soup to donate to the local food pantries. Donations of all kinds of soup are welcome and appreciated.

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth."

Isaiah 40:28

Memorials & Donations

Donations to Current:
In memory of Eleanor Drescher from Bob & Sue Drescher

In memory of Dorothy Braunlich from Kevin Braunlich

Donation to the INN Cooking from Pastor & Ed Cline

In memory of William Miller from Florence Hettinger

Donation to Congregational life in memory of Ruth Green from Carol Glen

Donation of the new hymnals in memory of Ruth Green from Nancy Dineen

News, Notes & Greetings

To Whom it May Concern:
I live up the block, my name is Nancy and I work at King Kullen. I walk on your church property to save steps going to and from work a few days a week. I want to thank you. I also want to send a small donation because of it. Our family also has medical concerns so think of us in your prayers. Thank You in advance.
Sincerely, Nancy Moniodes

We wish a fond farewell to our Sexton, Kristina Cook. Thank You for keeping our church clean and tidy! Blessings on your future endeavors.

Merrick Garden Club
Merrick, New York

Founded in 1933

July 24, 2023

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

To the Members of the Church Council:

The Merrick Garden Club celebrated it's 90th anniversary in March. For many years we met in the Annex of the Merrick Library. However when it burned down we were forced to find a new meeting space. We found we were not eligible to meet in the newly built Merrick Library. It was in January 2003 that I wrote to your church asking to meet there. We were very grateful when Pastor Cline called and agreed to our meeting in your community room. The rental fee was then and still is very reasonable which we appreciated.

However things are changing within our club. We have gotten more Merrick and North Merrick members and we have found that we are welcome to meet in the North Merrick Library. So we feel that is where the Merrick Garden Club belongs and we have started meeting there.

We wish to thank you for the twenty years we have met in your church. We always enjoyed the cheerfulness of the Howe Room with its many windows, the fact that you allowed us to use your kitchen to help us set up our refreshments and above all the fact that it was accessible to everyone; the elderly, the handicapped and those in wheelchairs.

We wish to particularly thank Margaret Nevorka for faithfully making sure we had heat or air conditioning for each meeting and everything we needed was available.

Again we thank your church for its welcoming hospitality for so many years. Enclosed please find the key to the Howe Room.

With best wishes for your ministry in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Carol Schmidt
Corresponding Secretary

Club Motto: "We cultivate not flowers alone, But Faith and Hope."

September 22, 2023

To the Congregational Council of St John, Bellmore

I was very surprised on Monday when Anita told me that a committee of the Three Churches Ministry agreed to give the Social Ministry Committee of St John's Merrick two hundred dollars. I do have various people and groups that give me money and food for the Social Ministry Committee's work -restocking the pantry, ingredients for the cooking for the soup kitchen and bags for the rescue of bagels and transporting the used clothing. However even as our churches are struggling financially, my donors too are unable to help as much as they used to. Food is so expensive these days, even fresh produce - and yet it is the growing season, that I was grateful to receive your gift. I wanted to thank you for thinking not only of the Social Ministry Committee, but of the people who depend on our outreach to provide them with their food and other needs. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carol Schmidt, Chairman
Social Ministry Committee

Lent & Holy Week Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday – February 14th

12:30 p.m. ❖ Holy Communion at Saint John, Bellmore
(With imposition of ashes)

7:30 p.m. ❖ Holy Communion at St. John's, Merrick
(With imposition of ashes)

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesday's During Lent
February 21
February 28
March 6
March 13
March 20

Come for the meal at 6:30 and stay for the discussion at 7:00 at St. John's, Merrick

Palm Sunday of the Passion ~ March 24th

9:30 a.m. ❖ Solemn Holy Communion at Saint John, Bellmore
(With blessing and distribution of palms)

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28th

12:30 p.m ❖ Solemn Holy Communion at Saint John, Bellmore
7:30 p.m. ❖ Solemn Holy Communion at St. John's, Merrick
(Concludes with the stripping of the Altar at 7:30 service)

Good Friday – March 29th

10:30 a.m ❖ Children's Easter Story w/craft at Saint John, Bellmore
Located at 2150 Centre Avenue (just north of Sunrise Highway)
12:30 p.m. ❖ Way of the Cross at Saint John, Bellmore
7:30 p.m. ❖ Tenebrae at St. John's, Merrick

Easter Sunday ~ March 31st

Feast Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord at
Grace, North Bellmore -1294 Bellmore Ave. & Hamilton Rd.
9:30 a.m. ❖ Festive Holy Eucharist

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/

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If you cannot print your email or cannot attend worship – please make every effort to contact the church office and we can fill out a form for you. Yes, as we enter the New Year we are awaiting the **Annual Congregational Meeting** on the last Sunday of the month **[Jan. 28th]** following our worship for the day. Please come and join us and lend your voice in both prayer, praise, thanksgiving and a vote at the gathered assembly to continue supporting the ministry of our parish community and the future of forming a new church.

Take note that the season of Epiphany ends on **Transfiguration Sunday [Feb. 11th]** as we share a joint Eucharist **hosted by Grace Church** in No. Bellmore at 9:30am – followed by a **pre-lenten pancake breakfast** in the Parish Hall. It's also our recognition of the **"Souper-Bowl of Caring"** so remember to bring a can of soup as part of your offering. **Ash Wednesday** begins our Lenten pilgrimage this year on Feb. 14th with a 12:30pm service at Bellmore Saint John and a 7:30pm service here in Merrick. As we come down from the mountain of Transfiguration, let us walk in the shadows of lent, confident that our Savior walks with us – on the way to the cross, the grave and to the dawn of resurrection!

Following the true Light together, I offer you my pastoral blessings this Epiphany season!

✠ Pastor Kirschbaum

Come to Grace's Annual Pre-Lent Pancake Brunch

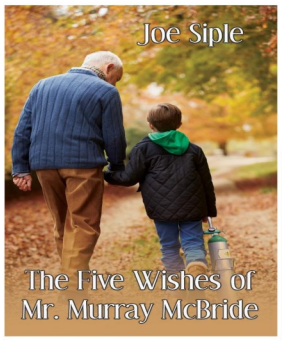
Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024

Immediately following the 9:30 AM service

$5 – adults;

$3 - children under 10

RSVP @ 516-785-5029



BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by Charlene Drewes
160 Commonwealth Avenue
Massapequa
RSVP: 516-330-6566
All are welcome – Please join us!

The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride

By Joe Siple

With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies. Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside-down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.