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

March 2024

Mission statement: *We are a people of God, eager to share the Good News with others through serving, teaching and spreading His message of unconditional love and forgiveness.*

Join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

The Eagle

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends in Christ!

Our Lenten pilgrimage this year started on Valentines' Day [Feb. 14th] with Ash Wednesday – to remind us of our mortality and of God's great love for us in Christ Jesus. It is through the cross we come to know the depth of God's love for the world – sending forth his son, not to condemn the world – but that through him, the world is given the gift of salvation – from death comes new life! As we journeyed these 40days of Lent, we heard on Sundays about the various covenants God makes with the people, even though we break them all too often… God continually calls for our hearts to return to Him. Each Wednesday, we have the opportunity to gather in the Fellowship Hall at the Merrick campus [off the corner of Margaret Blvd. where the small parking lot is located] 6:30pm is a simple soup supper and around 7:05pm, we share in a study on God's will – a play on the petition found in the "Our Father" – "thy will be done."

Remember, that our Lenten worship schedule will soon bring us to Holy Week and Easter where we will share in joint worship with our other two families of faith as we did for the first time this past Christmas season. **Palm/ Passion Sunday** [March 24th – a bag lunch ministry day] will be hosted by us here in Bellmore at 9:30am. If weather permits, we will try a procession with the palms starting either outside on the front lawn or in the Howe Room. If you would rather not process, please feel free to be seated in the main church as you arrive. On **Maundy Thursday** [Mar. 28th] and **Good Friday** [Mar. 29th] we will jointly share a **12:30 daytime service** for those who would rather not travel at night hosted by us here in Bellmore and the traditional **evening service at 7:30pm** hosted by the Merrick Church.

Easter Sunday [Mar. 31st] will be hosted by Grace Church in North Bellmore at 9:30am, preceded by a continental breakfast at 8:30am and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children at 9:00am right before the main worship. As we begin to share these holy days with our three congregations as joint worship, it will be a definite change for many of us – but it is also a great exciting time to be together with others as we experience the passion of Our Lord and celebrate the triumph of the cross in the dawn of Easter's light in the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus! As you are able – we hope that you will make every effort to plan these special services in your family schedule.

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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

March Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

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

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

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love..."

Psalm 51:1a

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

News, Notes & Greetings

Saint John Bellmore Children's Good Friday Activity

March 29, 2024

Each year we gather our children on Good Friday to prepare for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We start at **10:30** with an Easter story, and use "Easter Resurrection Eggs" to review the days of Holy Week upstairs in the sanctuary. Then it's downstairs in the Howe Room where various tables have different crafts pertaining to the Easter season. Groups of children will then be making delicious "Resurrection Cookies" and once out of the oven, will enjoy their delicious creations!

All are invited - even neighbors and friends. Please respond by Palm Sunday so we are properly prepared.

You are also invited to remain for our Good Friday service at 12:30 or if you prefer an evening Tenebrae service at 7:30PM held at St. John's in Merrick.

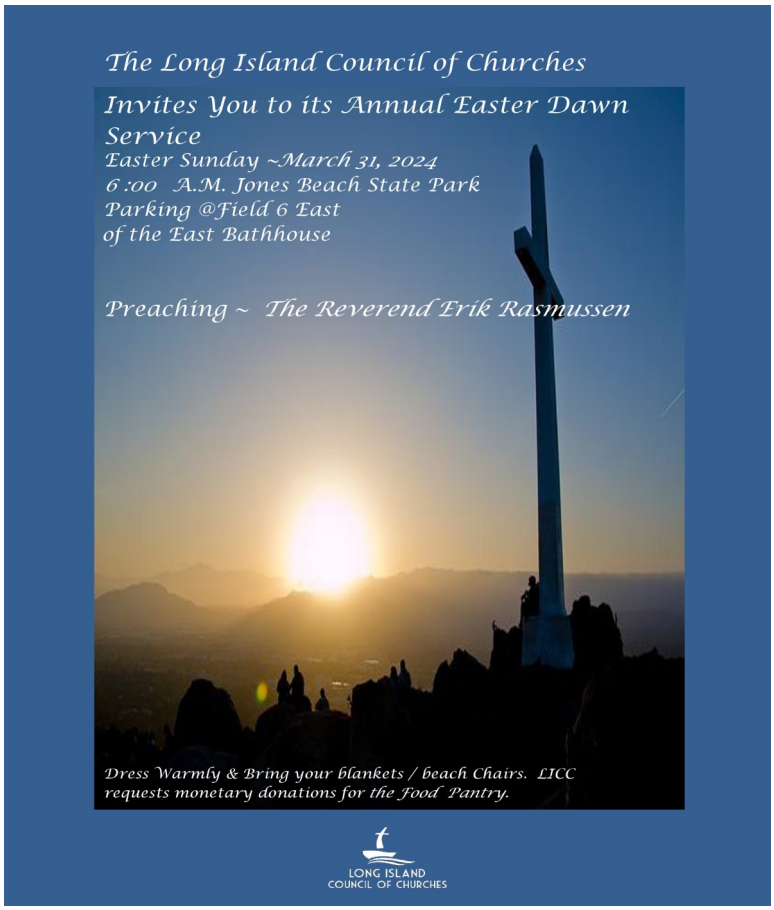
Child's Name _____

Age_____

Please return to the church office @stjbellmore@gmail.com

CRAFTS

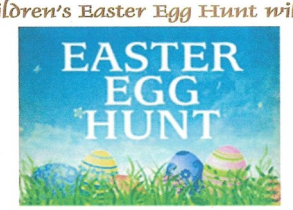
COOKIES



March 31, 2024

Please join us for a continental breakfast of
Bagels, Muffins, Cakes,
Juices, Coffee & Tea
Easter Sunday at 8:30 AM
Before the 9:30 am Service
Free will offering

The children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow at 9:00

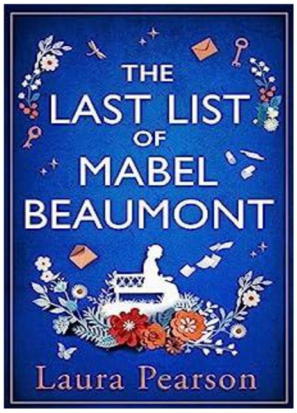


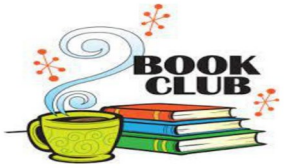
Name_____ Phone#_____

Number of guests_____

Please return by March 24th

Any donations of colored hard boiled eggs and baked goods would be greatly appreciated.
Please email Carol @ caroljenks978@gmail.com or text/call 1- 516- 732-4430 to sign up to volunteer to donate.





Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by Nancy Kamps Cook
35 Sunset Lane Levittown
RSVP: 516-712-5622
All are welcome – Please join us!

The Last List of Mabel Beaumont

By Laura Pearson

Mabel Beaumont's husband Arthur loved lists. He'd leave them for her everywhere. 'Remember: eggs, butter, sugar'. 'I love you: today, tomorrow, always'. But now Arthur is gone. He died: softly, gently, not making a fuss. But he's still left her a list. This one has just one item on it though: 'Find D'. Mabel feels sure she knows what it means. She must track down her best friend Dot, who she hasn't seen since the fateful day she left more than sixty years ago.

It seems impossible. She doesn't even know if Dot's still alive. Also, every person Mabel talks to seems to need help first, with missing husbands, daughters, parents. Mabel finds her list is just getting longer, and she's still no closer to finding Dot. What she doesn't know is that her list isn't just about finding her old friend. And that if she can admit the secrets of the past, maybe she could even find happiness again...

A completely heartbreaking, beautiful, uplifting story, guaranteed to make you smile but also make you cry. Perfect for fans of *My Name is Ove*, *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, and *The Keeper of Stories*.

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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https://stjohnbellmore.org/

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Many of you have probably heard the great news of the election of a name for the new church once the consolidation is in place… the name that was elected is quite apropos to our "3" churches coming together to form a new congregation – **"Holy Trinity Lutheran Church"**. Many thanks for all of our members in good standing, who participated in this endeavor to select a new name to be placed into the draft constitution and bylaws that have been worked on by our Transition Team subgroup in that area.

The **Transition Team** is the group of members of our three congregations [made up of at least 5 elected/appointed members] acting as a pseudo-council in the transition work leading us to the congregational votes to eventually consolidate our churches into one. The Transition team is also made up of five subgroups – each handling a particular facet of the process and working diligently on behalf of our three congregations as we move to become a new congregation.

It has come to our attention that there is not enough word going out to the congregational members about the Transition Team is doing on our behalf and so it was decided that we would have a few temple talks during worship and offer a written summary as well of each of our meetings so that members of each individual congregation become more aware and always feel free to offer comments and questions or concerns to be addressed at future sessions of the Team, which typically tries to meet each month.

Since our last meeting in February and March – we have met our current goal of electing a new name and adding it to the draft constitution and bylaws to be sent to the Synod Office to begin a review of these documents. Ira Bergman (SJ/B) has sent those two documents along with our consolidation plan to the Metro. NY Synod to begin review that could take up to four months of time. Both the state and our synod will need us to work on the creation of a Mission Plan to also be offered for review. All of these documents will be offered, at the appropriate time, to our individual congregations for review and a formal vote. We were working on a potential inspection of each property, but at the present time it is cost prohibitive and a bit early in the game to make decisions on any of the property. We have begun to brainstorm ways to increase membership and our presence in the community. We always welcome suggestions and ideas from congregational members.

Following the Way of the Cross to the empty tomb with you!
✠ Pastor Kirschbaum