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

It's September! - - - It's **"Rally Day & God's Work ~ Our Hands" time** … resuming all our regular schedules – and that means a new journey in faith formation ministry, including: Sunday School, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Bible study encounters. On **Sunday, September 8th** ~ our worship will once again be here in Bellmore at **9:00am** followed by coffee hour in the Howe Room and a special project for our Seafarers led by our Sunday School as we put together ***Christmas-at-Sea*** satchels to extend to them the love of God when they are away from home. It is also "Grandparents Day" and we will offer special blessings in our worship for both our Sunday School Teachers – and our families, especially our grandparents in the various ways they show us God's love.

As we prepare for another year of learning, fun and encountering God's grace in Jesus… I remind you all how important it is to encourage each other in the reading of God's word, in prayer, remembering you're a child of the King in your baptism and to be nourished for the journey of life and faith with Christ himself in the sacrament meal of the Holy Communion. These are more than just traditions, but means of grace and ways we come in contact with God's presence.

If you ever wondered if teaching the faith makes any real difference, think about the following excerpt I happen to find in a devotional book from a sermon on parenting – called, "Motherhood" by Billy Sunday [1862-1935] … ***"The biggest place in the world is that which is being filled by the people who are closely in touch with youth. Being a king, an emperor or a president is mighty small potatoes compared to being a mother or the teacher of children, whether in a public school or in a Sunday school, and they fill places so great that there isn't an angel in heaven that wouldn't be glad to…come down here and take their places. Commanding an army is little more than sweeping a street or pounding an anvil compared with the training of a boy or girl."***

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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

"My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life…"

Proverbs 3:1-2a

September Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

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

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

Don't forget to RSVP by September 15th for our Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, September 28th at 5pm
For more details see flyer on reverse side of September calendar

News, Notes & Greetings

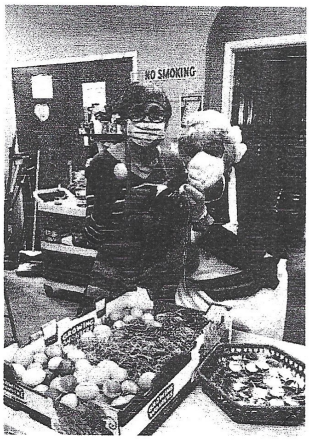
SOUP TO NUTS Soup Kitchen INC
"feeding the mind, body and spirit"

April 6, 2024

Ms. Kathy Strouse
Saint John Lutheran Church
2150 Centre Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710

Dear Ms. Strouse and the Students of Saint John Bellmore Sunday School:

What an "eggs-traordinary" presentation! On Monday, March 4th, you were the talk of the soup kitchen. The volunteers could not believe all the beautifully colored eggs. And to think about the day before, when you dyed the 200 hard-boiled eggs you brought to Sunday School . . . It was beyond overwhelming.



All of us at Soup to Nuts thank you for bringing Easter cheer to our neighbors and the promise of brighter days ahead. You offered a symbol of hope with a burst of nutrition to 120 guests that Monday. The size of your donation was so grand that a person's request for another egg could be granted. The guests love hard-boiled eggs.

After more than three years as an outdoor grab-and-go operation because of the pandemic, we transitioned last fall to the feeding

program as it was founded in May 1987. We continue to have takeaway food tables in the rear of the dining area that contain quality packaged perishable items and canned and boxed goods. Now, a few months into serving sit-down meals in a hospitality setting, the guests are socializing more and enjoying the lunch. We have learned how much food is needed at home. Many bring their containers to share their full-course meal with family. Some men pocket the roll "for later" before their tray fills with the other courses.

Most sincerely,

Marian Hart

Marian Hart
Monday volunteer and Co-President

P.O. Box 7661, Freeport, NY 11520 61 North Grove Street 844-466-7687
www.souptonutssoupkitchen.org email: souptonutssoupkitchen@gmail.com

The Soup To Nuts Soup Kitchen is a registered 501(c)(3) charity. "This letter will serve as a receipt for your donation. You did not receive any goods or services from the Soup To Nuts Soup Kitchen in exchange for this gift."

Transition Team Update

Dear Members,

As you know, the Transition Team has been working on steps to progress the consolidation between our three churches. As we come together as "Holy Trinity Lutheran Church," one of the crucial steps to bring to the Synod is our Mission Plan. At our meetings, the team has been brainstorming what we want our purpose of our new church to be (including specifications of all of the buildings of our new church), and how we plan to achieve these purposes. At our listening posts, we have been brainstorming ideas as well as sharing our desires, hopes and concerns as we move forward. At our last Transition Team meeting, some members had prepared a draft of our Mission Plan – consolidating our ideas we brainstormed as well as some new ones. We are posing this draft plan to YOU – so that you can have a say.

We realize sometimes we don't know what we don't know – we don't know the questions we have, or the possibilities that are out there. Then, when we think we do, we might be thinking it's too bold or too minute to bring to the larger community. We ***want*** to hear everyone's voices! This draft is a perfect jumping off point for these more progressive conversations. We hope that you look it over diligently and bring your suggestions to any of our team members, our listening post meetings, or anonymously in our suggestion box.

We thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of the draft Mission plan. Please consider:

- What would you keep the same?
- What would you change?
- What would you add?
- Do you have questions/concerns?

With Gratitude,
The Transition Team

"Sample / Draft" ~ PLAN FOR MISSION
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH of the Bellmores & Merricks

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. How will we do this once we have consolidated?

We will share God's love and grace combining our talents to spread the Good News.

By the use of social media, both through our websites and Facebook pages, to make others aware of who we are and what we do. We can also advertise our services and community events in local publications.

By networking, where we share community minded outreach, including:

Supporting and advertising our food pantry,

Establishing a thrift shop on one of our campuses, which will provide affordable clothing and household items to the community. Any profits will be used equally to help run the thrift shop (rent, utilities, etc.) and to be given as donations to a needy cause.

Providing regular Bible study and discussions with other community churches, including education workshops to bring God back into our lives.

Establishing a Senior program that will include worship and a meal

By holding a special service for former members, inviting members back who no longer attend church. {No criticisms/no questions asked)

We will raise our presence in the community, providing outreach and spiritual growth

At large,…

By participating in the annual local street fairs, manning a booth and handing out information about who we are and what we do

By hosting craft fairs and yard sales, with part of the profits donated to community needs.

By hosting a church block party, with games, food and fun

By staging an art show, with our local talent (e.g, from the paint club)

For the youth,

By involving the youth in church car washes

By providing holiday special activities, for example at Halloween, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, Christmas

By offering a Concert night with singing or music provided by students from our local high schools

We will enhance community relationships

By offering Garden club workshops

By provide work projects for youth

By sponsoring family nights with games, movies, and fellowship and, alternatively,

Parent's night out, with activities for children while parents have some free time, or

Mother's morning – same as above while mother does shopping

By hosting

Free Thanksgiving meals

A free lunch day

We will open our buildings to others, exemplifying God's unconditional love and forgiveness.

AA, NA, AL Anon

Divorce recovery

Spouse death recovery

LGBTQA

A safe place for children in need (if there is a group)

It is our hope and prayer that each of our members will consider participating in this endeavor as we create a "Plan for Mission" for our new church… similarly to how we were all invited to be involved with selecting a new name.

Consider attending the next "Listening Post" on Tuesday – Sept. 24th at 7:00pm hosted by the Merrick Campus in the Fellowship Hall located on Margaret Blvd. off of Merrick Avenue.

Please share your ideas and suggestions based on this "sample/draft" as we work together to see what kinds of things we would like our new church to do/offer in the first [3 to 5] years of ministry within our combined communities.

We thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of the sample/draft Plan for Mission. Please consider:

- **What would you keep the same?**
- **What would you change?**
- **What would you add?**
- **Do you have questions/concerns?**

With gratitude for your prayerful participation,
The B/M Transition Team Members:
Dcn. Charlene Drewes, Margaret Neverka, John Neverka, Nina Thilesen, Ira Bergman, Heidi Kohler, Gerry Finck, Carol Carman, Annamarie Wilson, Frauke Davidow, Michael Chin, Kathy Kugler, Don Field, Jim Schwarz, Karin Trabold, Mike Trabold, Pastor Kirschbaum

DRAFT

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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Bellmore, NY 11710

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E-mail: stjbellmore@gmail.com
https://stjohnbellmore.org/

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We'll be thinking about heroes in the Bible this year and no matter whether you're a Mom or Dad – grandparent, aunt or uncle, teacher or anyone who has the chance to influence a child with the power of a word – ***"a word that can bring curse to a community or the ability to lift the world to Jesus Christ. The mothers will put in motion influences that will either touch heaven or hell. Talk about greatness!"*** That's what I call a hero – someone who offers the power of a word to a child – especially a word that builds bridges, opens doors, brings light into dark corners and sets the path to encounter the love of God in Christ.

Come to share in worship, come to share in a life-giving word, come and share in Jesus who offers us the gift of salvation that we can share with our children. Looking forward to share a word with you… Jesus, the living bread of life!

Early Fall Blessings in Christ!
✠ Pastor Kirschbaum

Car Wash

September 14th
Hours are from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

On Saturday September 14th we are having our 2nd Car Wash, at Grace in our new parking lot. This is a free will donation and all proceeds go to our Youth Program. Please let Don Field know what hours you can give at (516) 244-2266.
Our rain date will be the following Saturday Sept 21st.