The Voice of Bellmore - Merrick

Saint John's Lutheran Church & School

"St. John's Early Childhood Center"

SEPTEMBER ~ 2026

Dear Friends in Christ!

Although it's already the middle of the month – we joyfully share these concluding days of summer as we make the transition into an early fall season. We have already shared in our "God's Work ~ Our Hands" Service Project Sunday as we pray and look out for our furry four-legged friends in need… as well as kicked off our Sunday School Rally Day with special blessings for our Teachers, Children, their parents and especially for "grandparents" who play an important role in mentoring our young disciples.

By the time you get this edition of our joint newsletter, you are already aware of the upcoming Special Congregation Meeting for both Bellmore & Merrick churches as we share in open conversation about our first efforts in doing "cost-sharing" between us as we move forward in our process of consolidation… Even though we still have several months to go… we are definitely getting ever close to bringing our two churches together into one new faith family.

On the last Sunday (4th Sunday) of this month of September [9/27] we will share in our regular Bag Lunch collection for those in need… and a special recognition of our Early Childhood Center Ministry [E.C.C.] held at the Merrick campus – School Spirit Sunday! Our worship will begin as usual at 9:30, just at our alternate location in Merrick and we have invited families of our ECC to join us as we begin another school year… embracing a love of God and a love of learning. There will be a special family homily, focusing on our young disciples; and after the liturgy there will be crafts, games, sweet treats to share and a Scholastic Book Fair to browse. We pray that all of our Bellmore—Merrick members will want to share in this celebratory recognition… as we learn the school song, "We Love Saint John's E.C.C."

During these Sundays in ordinary/standard time after Pentecost, we will move to another setting of the liturgy, ELW # 7, which has a fun Spanish sound in the musical setting. We have also tried to replace our opening hymn with a special "prelude" song that we continue to repeat and encourage the congregation to sing the chorus/refrain while volunteer singers offer the verses. We're very blessed to have members of the congregation share their musical talents in our worship and especially for Craig Medico who offers his guitar talents strumming those strings to lift our spirits in praise of God.

Early fall blessings in Christ! ✠ Pastor Kirschbaum

Saint John's Lutheran Church of Bellmore & Merrick

Rooted in Christ. Growing in Faith. Serving Our Community.

Welcome to Worship – Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

2150 Centre Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710
Office – 516-785-4331
Email – stjbellmore@gmail.com
Website – saintjohnbellmore.org

1 Van Roo Avenue, Merrick, NY 11566
Office/Fax – 516-379-3858/3681
ECC Office – 516-378-4ECC (4322)
Email – stjmerrick@gmail.com
Website – stjohnsmerrick.org

Mission Statement: **The mission of Saint John's Lutheran Church of Bellmore-Merrick, a nurturing community, is to live the way Jesus taught us by spreading the message of His unconditional love through joyful acceptance because we are all God's children.**

By 2031, Saint John's Lutheran Church of Bellmore- Merrick will…

- ✠ develop a comprehensive youth program
- ✠ increase active and diverse participation
- ✠ increase and improve our outreach programs
- ✠ broaden our social media activity

Congregational Council

President: Craig Medico
Vice President: Nina Thilesen
Secretary: Margaret Neverka
Recording Secretary: Jerilyn Hunsinger
Co-Treasurers: Charlene Drews/Ira Bergman

Nancy Kamps - Cook
Jennifer Pagano
Craig Preattle
Christa Tuccillo
Lori Vanderwaren

President: Heidi Kohler
Vice President: Barbara Entenza
Secretary: Frauke Davidow
Treasurer: Ken Glupe

Gerry Finck
Barbara Kohler
Lisa Reisner
Marge Scarangella

Church Staff

The Reverend Perry J. Kirschbaum, Pastor
Ms. Charlene Drewes, Deacon
Mrs. Anita Fiedel, Church Admin. Assistant
Ms. Quinn Anderson, Organist
Ms. Deborah Stanczuk, ECC Director
Mrs. Bernadette Murray, ECC Admin.Assistant

Early Childhood Center Teachers

Ms. Michelle Alessi
Ms. Daisy Galan
Ms. Christina Kublo
Ms. Sharon Loscalzo
Ms. Lisa Luchsinger
Ms. Erin O'Brien
Ms. Daphne Rodrigues
Ms. Lisa Zachar

Online Worship

Worship will be live streamed on the Saint John's Bellmore Facebook page on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmerrick/
https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnbellmore

Follow us on Instagram: **@saintjohnlutheran**

Worship Server Schedule

	Assisting Minister	Acolyte	Usher	Lector	Altar Guild
9/20	Gerry	Adrian	Mike T/Nina	Dawn	Carol/Nina
9/27 – Merrick	Charlene	Gavin	Barbara K/Craig	June	Charlene/Lori

July/August/September Birthdays

July		August		September	
Thomas Ziminski	3rd	Sue Bogen	7th	Zachary Dean	2nd
Cole Drewes	6th	Hope Leys	19th	Irina Sargent	5th
Margaret Neverka	9th	Kylie Goodlin	22nd	Michael Giordano	20th
Christa Tuccillo	25th	Charlotte Mooney	31st	Jennifer Cline Sargent	22nd
Elizabeth Kamelhar	25th			Ashlyn Schurade	27th
Eva Leis	25th				
Nancy Dineen	26th				
Erin Dwyer	27th				
Gavin Mooney	29th				

A donation was received by Dona Caragol in celebration of Rey & Elliot Tagliaferro's birthdays!

If you would like to add your name to the birthday list, please contact the church office.

Food Pantry

If you would like to help out with the Pantry, our most needed items at this time are:
Pancake mix, coffee, hot chocolate, jello, pudding mix, hamburger/tuna helper, mustard. NO green beans, peas or salmon please – we have plenty.

Sunday School Rally Day

We kicked off the 2026-27 Sunday School Year with Rally Day on **Sunday, September 13th at the Bellmore Campus** along with a God's Work, Our Hands Project which will benefit Last Hope Animal Rescue, and a Celebration of Grandparents Day.

We will be collecting items as well as cash donations for Last Hope throughout the month of September. Please find the Sunday School calendar and wish list of items requested by Last Hope in this newsletter. Donations can be brought to worship in Bellmore on Sundays or dropped off at the Merrick church office during the week.

Lasthope
Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation
www.lasthopeanimalrescue.org Established 1981

Wish List

We've made it even easier for you to purchase items on our "Wish List" and have created a list on Amazon. We have found that since we don't get any confirmations from Amazon your donations are not being acknowledged – there is an option to include a gift card so be sure to do this so we can say **THANK YOU!!!**

AMAZON LINK: https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2TP4R3ZI4NBUM?

Your donation means a great deal to our organization, but it means even more to the animals that depend on us for survival. With your help we can carry on Last Hope's mission to reduce the tremendous cat and dog overpopulation problem on Long Island, encourage responsible and affordable pet ownership, and transform the public image of the typical pound animal.

Last Hope has a 501(C)(3) not for profit status. Your donation is tax deductible.

While monetary donations (our greatest need) for emergency medical expenses, spays and neuters, medicines, cat and dog food are always needed, below are also supplies needed as well.

FOR THE DOGS...

- Science Diet – Savory Stew with Chicken (12.8 oz)
- Science Diet – Adult Dry (33 lbs)
- Towels (bath size, cotton)
- Nylon Leashes 4-6 feet long and 1" thick
- Hybrid Martingale collars
- Toys that are Durable/washable (Kongs or Nylabones)
- NO RAWHIDE BONES PLEASE – they are not good for shelter dogs

FOR THE CATS...

- Friskies – Pate only (turkey and giblets, no fish flavors please)
- FANCY FEAST KITTEN TURKEY canned wet food (very needed)
- Dry cat food – any flavors
- KMR kitten replacement milk and nursing bottles
- Towels – bath size, cotton
- Toys (without cat nip, please – must be new)
- Fleece cat Beds (must be new)
- Hammocks with clips to hang in condo cages (http://www.amazon.com/ProSelect-Wild-Time-Hammock-Brown/)
- Stainless steel food/water bowls (prefer small, shallow, non-flip)
- Cat scratchers (click here for Scratch & Stretch cat scratchers)
- Feliway (Comfort Zone) diffuser and refills

ANIMAL CARE SUPPLIES...

- Triple antibiotic ointment or cream
- Nail clipper
- Grooming brushes
- Pet wipes
- Gauze (3" x 3" 4-PLY)
- Alcohol 70%
- Nitrile (non latex) gloves size large
- Hand Sanitizer (8 oz bottles)
- Antibacterial soap (gallon jug)
- Heating Pads and Heating Disks (Snuggle safe microwave heat pad with cover is a good option)

GENERAL SUPPLIES...

- Paper towels (one of our biggest needs)
- Toilet paper
- Dawn Blue Dish detergent
- Bleach & Windex
- Dust pans and brushes/brooms
- Industrial sponge mops with replacement heads
- Scrubber pads (not stainless steel)
- Dishwashing rubber gloves
- 39 gallon heavy duty trash bags
- 13 gallon tall kitchen trash bags

OFFICE SUPPLIES...

- Copier paper
- Manila file folders
- Pens
- Post it note pads
- Packing tape & dispenser
- Scotch tape
- White out
- Printer Ink: Brother TN660 toner cartridge

WE'D ALSO LOVE TO HAVE...

- Gift Cards to grocery stores, home improvement centers, pet stores, Walmart, or Target

Thank you for helping us save lives and make a difference!

Last Hope Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation is a 501(C)(3) not for profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

2026-2027

SEPT 13	Rally Day God's Work/Our Hands
SEPT 20	Sunday School Craft/ Congregation Mtg
SEPT 27	School Spirit Sunday Merrick
OCT 4	Sunday School
OCT 11	Columbus Weekend No Classes
OCT 18	Sunday School
OCT 25	Sunday School (Reformation)
NOV 1	Sunday School (All Saints)
NOV 8	Sunday School
NOV 15	Sunday School
NOV 22	Sunday School (Christ the King)
NOV 29	Thanksgiving Recess No Classes
DEC 6	Advent Workshop/Pageant Rehearsal
DEC 13	Pageant Rehearsal
DEC 20	Christmas Pageant/Party
DEC 27	Christmas Recess No Classes
JAN 3	Christmas Recess No Classes
JAN 10	Sunday School (Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord)
JAN 17	MLK Weekend No Classes
JAN 24	Sunday School

JAN 31	Sunday School
FEB 7	Sunday School (Transfiguration)
FEB 14	Winter Recess No Classes
FEB 21	Winter Recess No Classes
FEB 28	Sunday School
MAR 7	Sunday School
MAR 14	Sunday School
MAR 21	Sunday School Craft (Palm Sunday)
MAR 28	Spring Recess #1 No Classes Easter Sunday
APR 4	Sunday School
APR 11	Sunday School
APR 18	Sunday School
APR 25	Spring Recess #2 No Classes
MAY 2	Spring Recess #2 No Classes
MAY 9	Sunday School Craft (Ascension)(Mother's Day)
MAY 16	Sunday School (Pentecost)
MAY 23	Sunday School (Holy Trinity)
MAY 30	Memorial Day No Classes
JUNE 6	Sunday School
JUNE 13	Sunday School Craft Last Day Celebration

✞ In Our Prayers ✞

We lift in prayer our elected & lay leaders in both ecumenical and inter-faith relationships… for all associates in ministry, deacons, pastors and bishops, for our Co-Deans: Pr. Sheridan & Pr. Hickey; along with the congregations of our Eastern Nassau Conference; for all congregations in transition and discernment… especially for our Bellmore/Merrick Collaborative – for the work of our B/M Transition Team.

For our E.C.C. Ministry; Deborah Stanzuk, E.C.C. Director; for our joint B/M Church Councils along with a dedicated host of volunteers; our Companion Synod [diocese] of Tanzania; for these United States of America; our current Administration and for help to combat racism, white privilege, prejudice, gun-violence, hatred and war… for Ukraine & Russia; the Middle East crisis; for all in need of healing; for those who faithfully serve in our Military and for our Police Officers; for yourself and your family that you might find strength of faith in good times as well as in times of trial… for all who continue to struggle with Long Covid and yet another surge of Covid variants, flu strains and RSV; for the vaccinated and the unvaccinated; all who have died…, for all teachers, parents, first responders, doctors, nurses, medical teams, scientists and all essential workers…

We lift in prayer the following servants of God who are in need of healing & wholeness during the month of…

September ~ 2026

Valentina Allesandra	Barbara Entenza	Christina Maddalena	David & Carol Schmidt
Marilyn Anderson	Charlie Etherson	Jane, Joseph & Steve Marrin	Baby Holland Schofield
Mike Annarelli	Doreen Etienne	Robert Martorella	Freta Schubert
Sam Barbella	Jenny Finck	Rev. John H. Matby	Pat Schubert
Judy & Neil Bene	Ric Flanagan	Carol McCrystal	Marion Schurade
Ira & Jennifer Bergman	Chris Foley	Brian McLafferty	Carol Sclafani
Jamie Bifulco	Carol Glen	Dorothy Medico	Kathy Scott
Donna Boulder	Ken Glupe	Melissa & Nathaniel Milaccio	Connie Sestito
Joe Brucia	Laura Hackel	Marilyn Miller	Tom Smart
Lorraine Buck	Barbara Haase	Justin Nieves	Family of Richard Stukas
Joni Caggiano	Kristen Hahn	Bruce Oehler	Jean Tatum
Amanda Caponi	Theresa Heenan	Rosario Panzica	Christ Thieme & Family
Pete Cappisillo	Rev. Richard Hill	Marissa Paolercio	Grace Turner
Dona & Ted Caragol	Betsy Hirsch	Sharon Parinello	Sal Vassallo
Irma Caragol	Dolores Hohen	Richard Pascone	Cliff Vooris
Charles Castaldo	Marylou Hyland	Anthony Politi	Pat Waring
Peg Crawley	Daniel Johnson	Robert Pollock	Arthur Wehrman
Samantha Cunningham	William R. Kamps	Maria Pusateri	Shelly Williams
Colin Deady	Kevin Kilgallin	Ryan Ramapol	Dorothy Williamson
Mark DeFilippis	Richard Knoll	Dana Roberts	Margaret Wilson
Addalina DiTierri	Hope Leys	Kathy Rollando	Charley Woell
Pam Drewes	Sue Loheide	Joe Salow	Yuan Zhang
The Duncan Family	Doris Lomler	Fran Saperstein	Bruce Zimmerman
Maria Ege	Linda Lown	Jonathon Scarduzio	Michelle & Dan

To include someone on our "Prayer List," please fill out a Prayer List Request Form printed on "blue" colored paper located on the information table in the narthex or you may call or email the church office. You can also call or email to let us know when someone can be taken off the list.

Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee met on August 15 following the monthly Soup to Nuts/INN Cook. Thanks to everyone who helped with shopping, preparing pasta and desserts, and assembling the meal. Because of limited staffing and the summer heat, the group prepared five trays of cold tuna and rotini salad, along with applesauce and desserts. The meal was a good choice for the warm conditions in Fellowship Hall and made it possible to avoid using the stove and oven.

The committee also discussed the ECC Thrivent Community Service Food Drive, which is collecting 100 food items to benefit our food pantry and the Interfaith Nutrition Network cook program, as well as seeking $500 in donations toward repairs to the stove at the Merrick church. An application has also been submitted for a $10,000 ELCA Hunger Grant that could help expand programs addressing food insecurity, improve the kitchen, or provide additional assistance to those in need. A decision on the grant is expected by the end of October.

The food pantry continues to serve those in need, including a new client this month, and the committee plans to coordinate another pickup of excess food from LSS at the end of August. The group is also working through scheduling and space considerations for future Soup to Nuts cooks as other activities make use of Fellowship Hall.

The next Soup to Nuts Cook is scheduled for **September 19 at 9:00 a.m.** The menu will be determined closer to the date based on available food supplies and the weather. The committee continues to be grateful for the generosity of its volunteers, donors, and benefactors who make these ministries possible.

Our Pastoral Care Ministry

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM YOUR CHURCH with information you might have of any hospital admissions or emergencies. We can assist the *Pastoral Care Ministry* of our parish by keeping the church office up to date with what is going on in our lives as part of God's family...for example**...**

- You are in need of prayer.
- You are ill or hospitalized.
- A baby is born into your family.
- A family member has died.
- Funeral Arrangements need to be planned.
- You are making plans for your Marriage.
- You wish to receive Holy Communion.
- You are moving/transferring to a new Parish.
- You or someone you know should be on our Prayer List - OR - you or someone you know has now recovered and the list can gladly be updated.

<u>The Holy Communion</u> *(in special circumstances);* the <u>Anointing of the Sick</u> for healing and wholeness are both available for all who desire. <u>Blessing of a Dwelling</u> is also available for all who have moved into a new living space *(i.e., new apartment or house)* and seek God's blessing. Be open to the gracious gifts of God in the power of the Holy Spirit received in Living Faith.

Long Island
State Veterans Home
AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
100 Patriots Road
Stony Brook NY, 11790

August 17, 2026

St. John's Early Childhood Center
C/o Deborah Stanczuk, Director
One Van Roo Ave.
Merrick, NY 11566

Dear participants,

On behalf of the residents and staff of the Long Island State Veterans Home, please accept our gratitude and thanks for your generous donation of shaving creams, body wash, shampoos, puzzle books, and diabetic socks for the residents.

It is heartening for the residents who make this special facility their home to know that the community has not forgotten them. Once again, thank you for continuing to warm their hearts.

Best Wishes,

S. Calandrino

Samantha Calandrino, LMSW
Coordinator of Volunteer Service

St. John's Early Childhood Center Ministry

September ~ 2026

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that I write this newsletter as Director of St. John's Early Childhood Center. I am honored to lead this wonderful school community and work alongside our talented and dedicated staff. We are all devoted to serving the children in our care and their families and remain committed to fulfilling our school motto: **"Where a Love of God and Learning Grow."** It is our goal to nurture the whole child by meeting their spiritual, emotional, academic, and social needs while providing a loving, safe, and engaging environment in which every child can learn and grow.

We have just completed six weeks of our Summer Program, with nearly 50 children participating in four programs for incoming two, three, four, and five-year-old PreK students. Many of our older children were former ECC students who returned to spend their summer with us, which is a wonderful testament to the lasting relationships we build with our families. Each week featured a different theme with stories, songs, crafts, and activities. The children explored the ocean during "Down by the Sea," searched for bugs with magnifying glasses during "Let's Get Buggy," and went on a bear hunt through our Prayer Garden during "Teddy Bear Friends." Outdoor play was also a favorite, with sprinklers, water and sand tables, bikes, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and our popular pretend lemonade stand.

In addition to all the fun, the ECC partnered with St. John's Lutheran Church through a Thrivent Community Action Team Project to collect food for the church food pantry and The INN's Soup Kitchen and raise funds to help repair the stove in the Merrick Campus kitchen. Thank you to all the families who participated! We collected over 100 food items and over $600. We ended our Summer Program with an Ice Cream Social, where the children enjoyed making sundaes, crafts, games, and lots of sweet treats. Families brought food donations to the event to support our food collection project.

Our teachers and staff are now busy preparing their classrooms for the new school year. Students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers, visit their classrooms, and participate in an activity with friends during our Hello Days on September 9th and 10th. We will officially welcome all of our children back for our first full day of classes on Monday, September 14th. Our Meet the Teacher Night for parents will be held at 6:30 PM, providing an opportunity to visit classrooms, learn about school policies and procedures, meet our teachers, and speak with representatives from our Partner Programs. This year, we are pleased to offer enrichment programs including LI Elite Mobile Gymnastics, Cooking Explorers, Amazing Athletes, and Karate Zoo. We are also excited to offer programs for our two-year-olds, including Amazing Athletes Tots and Cooking Explorers Tots. These programs provide children with additional opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills, and have fun while learning.

Continued.....

St. John's Early Childhood Center Ministry

September ~ 2026

The ECC is happy to sponsor the ECC School Spirit Sunday Fellowship Hour following worship on Sunday, September 27th, at the Merrick Campus. The worship service will include the installation of our teachers, a special song performance by our school children, and a children's sermon from Pastor. Following worship, the fellowship hour will include children's crafts, tattoo art, a bounce house, and special treats. We hope the congregation will join us as we celebrate our teachers, students, and school families!

Our fall fundraisers will also be getting underway. Our Fall Plant Sale orders are due Thursday, September 24th, with delivery and pick-up at St. John's ECC on Thursday, October 8th. We will again be working with Gabrielsen Farms in Jamesport, offering mums, corn stalks, hay bales, and other beautiful fall items. Church families are welcome to participate and support the ECC. Our Applebee's Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, October 4th, from 8:00–10:00 AM at the Bellmore location on Sunrise Highway. Tickets are $10 per person and include pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, and a beverage. Please join us before worship for a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and an opportunity to support the programs of St. John's Early Childhood Center. Our Scholastic Book Fair will run the week of September 21st – 28th. The ECC earns Scholastic Dollars on purchases which we can then use to purchase books and supplies for the classroom, as well as books to gift to our students on birthdays and Christmas. Stop by and purchase a book to support the ECC. If you don't have a child to buy for, you can buy and donate a book to our classroom from the teacher wish list. Support and participation in our school fundraisers are greatly appreciated.

We look forward to another wonderful school year filled with faith, learning, laughter, and friendship. Thank you for your continued support of St. John's ECC and for helping us create a place where a love of God and learning truly grow.

Regards,

Deborah Stanczuk

Deborah Stanczuk, Director
Phone: (516) 378-4322
E-mail: ecc@stjohnsmerrick.org
Website: www.stjohnsmerrick

Fall Plant Sale Fundraiser!

Dear St. John's Families,

Fall is just around the corner, and we are excited to announce that our **Fall Plant Sale Fundraiser** is back! We are thrilled to be partnering once again with Gabrielsen's Country Plant Farm in Jamesport, who offer a wonderful variety of beautiful, high-quality plants at great prices.

Whether you are looking for colorful fall mums, hay bales, corn stalks, or festive fall basket combinations, Gabrielsen's has something to help make your home and garden ready for the season. We were delighted with the beauty and quality of their plants last year, and we hope you will consider supporting our school by purchasing through this fundraiser.

As with all of our fundraisers, a portion of the proceeds will benefit St. John's Early Childhood Center and help support special programs, classroom enhancements, and other educational enrichment opportunities for our students.

Order Deadline: Thursday, September 24th
Plant Pick-Up: Thursday, October 8th, at St. John's ECC

Payment Options:

- Cash
- Check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church
- Zelle: stjmerrick@gmail.com

Please see the attached order form for available selections and pricing. We appreciate your continued support of our school and hope you will participate in this wonderful fundraiser!

If you have any questions, please contact the School Administrative Center at **516-378-4322** or email me at **deborah@stjohnsmerrick.org**.

Thank you for helping our school grow!

Warm regards,
Deborah Stanczuk
Director, St. John's Early Childhood Center

St. John's Early Childhood Center

Fall Plant Sale Fundraiser

Gabrielsen's Country Plant Farm, Jamesport

Orders are due by Thursday, September 24th
Pick up is Thursday, October 8th at St. John's ECC

Name_____
Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Plants:

9" Mums - $8 per pot	**Color Options:**	**Quantity:**
	Orange/Bronze	_____
	Pink/Purple	_____
	Red	_____
	White	_____
	Yellow	_____
9" Ornamental Cabbage - $8 per pot		_____
9" Ornamental Kale - $8 per pot		_____
10" Mums Hanging Basket -$18 per basket		_____
12" Mum Patio Pot - $24 per pot		_____
Fall Bean Basket Combo - $30 per basket **(A mix of mums, cabbage/kale, and or Montauk Daisy is a large bean basket with straw around the edge)**		_____
Corn Stalks -$13 per bunch		_____
Hay Bales- $15 per bale		_____

Decorative Items:

18" Scarecrow - $8

_____

39" Scarecrow - $12

_____

17" Tin Pumpkin - $25

_____

21" Wire Mesh Pumpkin - $25

_____

30" Wood Pumpkin "Welcome" sign $15 _____

$ Total: _____

Payment Type:

- Cash
- Check – made out to St. John's Lutheran Church
- Zelle– stjmerrick@gmail.com Please note for plant sale.

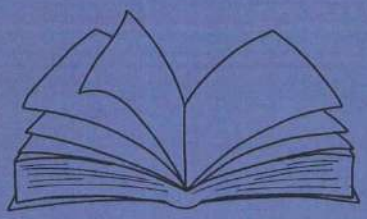
@languagelinksny

Linking Language & Little Voices

A PRE-LITERACY & LANGUAGE GROUP EXPERIENCE BY LANGUAGE LINKS SPEECH THERAPY PLLC

Turn-taking Skills

Vocabulary Exposure



Small Group

Engaging Social Environment

Pre-literacy Skills

JOIN US!

WHO?

Children ages 10 months to 2.5 years & their parent/ caregiver

WHERE?

St. John's Lutheran Church 1 Van Roo Avenue, Merrick, NY,

WHEN?

Select Saturdays 9-9:45am September - December

All classes led by Kayla Villante M.S. CCC-SLP TSSLD

Full session and drop-in rates available. Registration begins August 1st.

Questions? Email us at languagelinksny@gmail.com

Doodles of Devotion

This week's Gospel is **Matthew 16:21–28,** where Peter has an idea about how things should go—but Jesus shows him another way. Jesus begins to explain that the road ahead will include suffering, and Peter immediately pushes back. He loves Jesus. Of course he doesn't want him to suffer. But Jesus asks Peter to see things differently and follow him. Sometimes the way of Jesus challenges the things we're taught about success, strength, winning, and having more. Following Jesus can look like serving instead of seeking power, asking for help instead of pretending we don't need it, giving instead of having, and choosing love even when it asks something difficult of us.

Read and Reflect

Read the Gospel of Matthew 20:1-16 with your family or friends. Think about the story and take turns answering these questions:

Do you think the landowner was fair or unfair?

Describe a time when someone was generous to you.

If the landowner is a metaphor for God, what does this passage tell us about God's grace?

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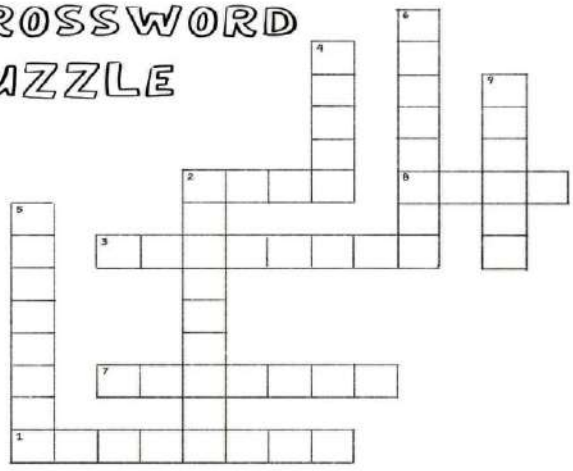
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 ISSUE 56

DOODLES of DEVOTION

The Laborers in the Vineyard

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

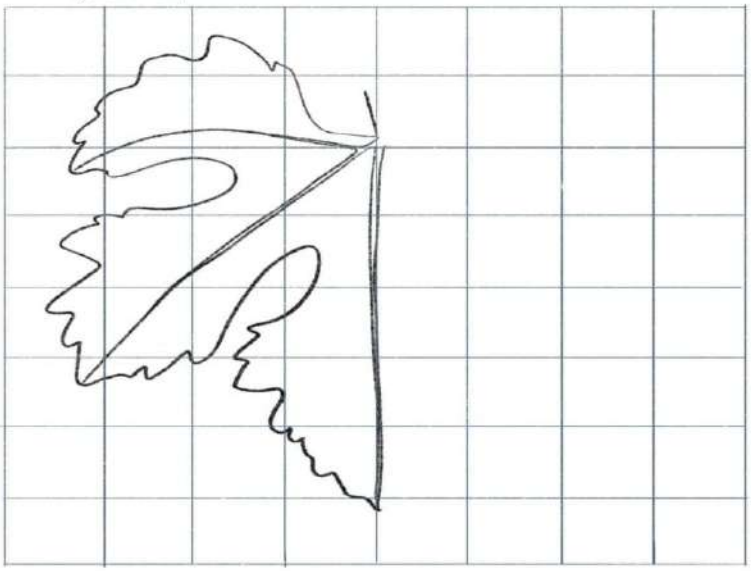


Across:
1. A silver coin used as money in ancient Israel.
2. These will be first.
3. Joyfully giving and sharing a lot with others.
7. The person who oversees the vineyard and its workers.
8. A sad or angry feeling when you wish you had what someone else has.

Down:
2. The person who owns the vineyard.
4. These will be last.
5. A large field where grapes are grown.
6. Another word for workers or employees.
9. Our beautiful, eternal home with God.

FROM THE VINE drawing prompt

Use the grid to help you draw the other half of the grape leaf. Look carefully at each square and copy the lines to complete the leaf. Try to make both sides similar, but remember, things in nature aren't always perfectly symmetrical!



Vendor & Craft Market

St. John's Lutheran Church

1 Van Roo Ave. Merrick

Saturdays
10am - 3pm

Indoor/outdoor
(contingent on weather)

Featuring a
pop up thrift tent
EVERY SATURDAY

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
@STJOHNLUTHERAN

@ST.JOHNSECC

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SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN
BELLMORE · MERRICK

Fun for Everyone!

GOOD TIMES. GREAT COMPANY.

GAME DAY!

STARTING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
1:00 – 4:00 PM

THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

We invite everyone in our community – children, families, seniors, and friends!

All Are Welcome!

- **FREE ADMISSION**
- **BRING YOUR OWN GAMES – SOME WILL BE PROVIDED!**
- **LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED**
- **ALL WELCOME – ALL AGE GROUPS**
- **FREE WILL OFFERING**

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – BELLMORE – MERRICK

2150 CENTRE AVENUE

— IN THE HOWE ROOM —

BELLMORE, NY 11710

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Bellmore/Merrick Collaborative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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✠ The Rev. Perry J. Kirschbaum, Pastor ✠

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Good afternoon,

This is an Official Notice of a **Special Congregational Meeting** of St. John's Lutheran Church of Merrick and Saint John Lutheran Church of Bellmore on Sunday, September 20, 2026 following the 9:30am service. While announcements have been made encouraging you to save the date for this meeting, please see below for specific details and the agenda item presented. Please reach out to Heidi Kohler, Craig Medico, Pastor Kirschbaum, or Anita in the church office if you have any questions prior to the meeting to ensure a productive conversation.

As you have already seen printed in previous worship bulletins, we are holding a special meeting to address budgetary revisions that will allow both congregations to begin the process of "cost sharing" as per a thorough analysis and recommendation from the joint Finance Team and Church Councils. The financial report will indicate cost sharing specifically in the areas of the Administrative Assistant and Church Musician salaries, the Pastoral Package, and office supplies. Note that the intention of cost sharing at this time is to support Merrick without being detrimental to Bellmore.

For Merrick, the agenda consists of this item broken into two parts. The first part is *informative* to inform members that the budgetary figures we have *already voted on* are being reallocated to reflect support for St. John's Merrick from Saint John Bellmore. The other part of this item is to *vote* on whether or not we wish to allow for an emergency withdrawal from the endowment fund up to a certain amount, as done in the past, instead of holding a special congregational meeting to do so.

As per protocol, the Special Meeting will offer a brief moment for any last minute questions or updates as needed before we address these issues. We strongly encourage your participation in worship and at this meeting as we continue to address the needs and next steps in our consolidation efforts.

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026
Worship Service: 9:30am
Special Congregational meeting: 11:15am
Location: Bellmore Campus

With best regards from your council presidents,
Heidi Kohler and Craig Medico

SEPTEMBER 2026

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

BELLMORE ✦ MERRICK

Rooted in Christ. Growing in Faith. Serving Our Community

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	**2**	**3** **10am** – ECC Comm. Mtg. @ SJ/M	**4** *Church Office Closed*	**5** **10am – 3pm** – Vendor Fair @ SJ/M
6 **Time after Pentecost – 23rd Sunday** **9:30am –** Holy Eucharist @ SJ/B w/Coffee Hour & Exec. Comm. Meeting	**7** *Church Office Closed*	**8** **10am** – Soup Kitchen Cook @ SJ/B **7pm –** Joint Council Meeting @SJ/M	**9** ECC Hello Day	**10** ECC Hello Day **6:30pm** – ECC Meet the Teacher Night	**11** *ECC Closed*	**12** **9am –** Literacy Class **10am – 3pm –** Vendor Fair @ SJ/M
13 **Time after Pentecost –24th Sunday** **9:30am –** Holy Eucharist @ SJ/B w/Sunday School Rally Day & Coffee Hour	**14** ECC - 1st Day of Classes *Holy Cross Day*	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19** **9am** – Soup Kitchen Cook/ Soc. Ministry Mtg. **10am – 3pm** – Vendor Fair @ SJ/M
20 **Time after Pentecost – 25th Sunday** **9:30am –** Holy Eucharist @ SJ/B w/Coffee Hour & SS Special Congregational Mtg	**21** *ECC Closed*	**22**	**23**	**24** 9:45am – ECC Chapel Time	**25**	**26** **9am –** Literacy Class **9am – Caregivers Grp @ SJ/M** **10am – 3pm –** Vendor Fair @ SJ/M
27 **Time after Pentecost – 26th Sunday** **9:30am – Holy Eucharist @ SJ/M w/ECC School Spirit Sunday & Coffee Hour** **1-4pm – Game Day @ SJ/B**	**28** *Matthew*	**29** *Michael & All Angels*	**30**			
11am – New Life Congregation @ SJ/B ***4th Sunday – Bag Lunch Ministry***	**7pm** - Recovery – Group @ SJ/M **7pm –** GA Mtg @ SJ/B	**10am –** AM Social @ SJ/B **10:30am –** Pastor's Text Study @ SJ/M **12-pm –** GA Mtg @ SJ/B **7:30pm –** AA @ SJ/B	**5:30pm** - Karate @ SJ/B	**5:30pm** - Karate @ SJ/B	**7:30pm –** AA @ SJ/B	

GRACES' CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday 1 Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3 Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	Friday 4	Saturday 5 Labor Day weekend
6 9:30 AM Worship Service of the Word NJPT – 12-3 PM NJPT - 6-8 PM AA – 7:00 PM	7 Labor Day	8 Council Meeting 7:30pm Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	9 WELCA ladies will be meeting at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall AA – 7:00 PM	10 Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	11 NJPT – 7:30-9:30 PM	12
13 9:30 AM Worship & Sunday School Rally Day 10:30 Coffee Social NJPT – 12-3 PM AA – 7:00 PM	14 1:30 PM Art Group	15 Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	16 AA – 7:00 PM	17 WELCA Bible study @ St. David's Lutheran Church @ 10:00am, Massapequa Pk Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	18 NJPT – 7:30-9:30 PM	19 NJPT- in AM
20 9:30 AM Worship& Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Social NJPT – 12-2 PM AA – 7:00 PM	21 1:30 PM Art Group Grace Literary Society 7pm	22 Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	23 AA – 7:00 PM	24 Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	25 NJPT– 7:30-9:30 PM	26 Thrift Shop 9am-1pm NJPT– in AM
27 9:30 AM Worship& Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Social NJPT- 12-2 PM AA – 7:00 PM	28 1:30 PM Art Group	29 Thrift Shop 1-5 pm	30 AA – 7:00PM			