SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

THE EAGLE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
2150 CENTRE AVENUE BELLMORE NY 11710
(516) 785-4331

JANUARY 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

The Gospel of Matthew begins with the phrase "an account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah…" Then chapter two continues; "now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way…" In both cases, the word that Matthew actually used was "genesis." He could have used Greek words that actually mean genealogy or birth, but instead he chose "genesis." Genesis is, of course, the name of the first book of the Bible. It means "a new creation" or, "a new beginning." For Matthew, the coming of Jesus into the world signaled a new creation, a new beginning for humankind.

On Thursdays at noon a small but dedicated group of people gather with me to share Bible study. For some reason most people are not interested in studying the Bible – they think it is just ancient history, perhaps they doubt its relevance to their lives, or in some cases they think it is too difficult. The women who share in our study will testify to the fact that none of those things are true. The Bible does tell the story of God acting in human history from ancient times to approximately two thousand years ago. But because human nature does not change, the stories are just as relevant today as they were then. There are themes and symbols that are repeated throughout and the message of God as well as God's intentions for us remain the same. I find it fascinating that I usually find something new every time I read a passage and I have been studying the Bible for most of my life, which now spans almost sixty-five years.

These images offer two possibilities for us to begin a new calendar year – Matthew's insistence on a new creation with the coming of Jesus into the world and the inspiration offered by our Bible study participants - that something new, interesting and hopeful can always be found in the Word of God. Although we cannot erase the past and begin life over again, we can look at the New Year as an opportunity for positive growth and renewal. Instead of resolutions we often do not keep, we can resolve to make our own "new creation" or "new beginning." We can try harder to focus on what God desires of us as we learn from Hebrew scripture (our Old Testament which we always read at Bible study) right through to the teachings of Jesus and the beginning of Christianity in the New Testament. The fundamental message is the same - we are to love our neighbor, to look after those who are poor, hungry and/or marginalized. Jesus taught that neighbor means not just the person who lives in our local neighborhood; it means people all around the world. We know these are Jesus' words, but it can be difficult for us to actually internalize that belief and consistently make the right choices to implement that which God intends for us and all of humankind.

The New Year offers us an opportunity to grow stronger in knowledge, understanding, and in faith. Everyone who participates in Bible study brings their own unique life experiences, yet they all see the relevance of scripture to their past, present and future. Study reinforces their incredibly positive attitudes about the possibilities of living a life centered on God. We all have times when we get discouraged. Some of us have faced serious challenges or had devastating losses. But each New Year gives us another opportunity to make a new beginning, to help make a "new creation" a reality.

Let us embrace these possibilities with hope and enthusiasm so that together we will grow stronger in faith. May we enjoy a healthy and blessed New Year!

Pastor Cline

SAINT JOHN 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.

STAFF AT SAINT JOHN:

- *Pastor: Rev. Laurie Cline*
- *Deacons:*
  Ms. Mary Barberio
  Ms. Charlene Drewes
- *Office Manager:*
  Mrs. Jeana Dwyer
- *Newsletter Editor:*
  Mrs. Jeana Dwyer
- *Congregational President:*
  Ms. Suzanne Ryan
- *Organist & Choir Director:*
  Ms. M. Quinn Anderson
- *Sexton: Mr. Nikolai Doviark*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WORSHIP HELP SCHEDULE	2
THANK YOU'S	2
MEMORIALS	2
SAVE THE DATE	3
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	3
NEWS & NOTES	4
WELCA	4
MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP	4
SOCIAL MINISTRY	4

WORSHIP HELP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

1/1 (Lessons & Carols)
Acolyte: Sara Forchelli
Altar Guild: Christa Tuccillo & Renate Petschauer
Lector: Nancy Kamps-Cook
Ushers: Bob Altman & Ed Finn
Assisting Minister: Gail Tomasulo
Communion Assts: N/A
Greeter: Bill Schurade

1/8 (Worship at St. Francis)

1/15 (prayer & anointing)
Acolyte: Sophie Orlich
Altar Guild: Danielle Branciforti
Lector: Phyllis Oehler
Ushers: Sue Bogen & Bill Schurade
Assisting Minister: Ira Bergman
Communion Asst: Margaret Neverka
Greeter: Steve Dowling

1/22
Acolyte: Olivia Orlich
Altar Guild: Jennifer Bergman & Deacon Charlene Drewes
Lector: Corey Bogen
Ushers: Ed Finn & Nicholas Harper
Assisting Minister: Deacon Charlene Drewes
Communion Asst: Lise-Anne Orlich
Greeter: Dylan Wickline

1/29
Acolyte: Thomas Simone
Altar Guild: Kathy Strouse & Lori Vanderwaren
Lector: Aidan Sargent
Ushers: Nicole Pagano & Suzanne Ryan
Assisting Minister: Deacon Mary Barberio
Communion Asst: Margaret Neverka
Greeter: Ira Bergman

January Counting Schedule:
1/1 Bob Altman & Nancy Kamps-Cook
1/8 N/A
1/15 Jennifer Pagano & Jack Waldron
1/22 Deacon Charlene Drewes & Lori Vanderwaren
1/29 Marion & Tony Elicati

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Khloe Klatman
4 Gloria Balaza
9 Brad Ferguson
9 Ruth Green
10 Carol Dort
11 Jessica Pagano
11 Barbara Waldron
13 Richard Miller
18 Phyllis Oehler
19 Connor Wickline
19 Dylan Wickline
20 Nicholas Waldron
22 Richard Levering
24 Robert Ziminski
26 Kathleen Klatman
28 Marion Schurade
29 Nancy Kamps-Cook
30 Quinn Anderson

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday in January. Please notify the office if your birthday was inadvertently left off the list.

THANK YOU

- To Faith Dwyer, Nicholas Harper, Nicole Kamelhar & Kathleen Klatman, for their assistance with the pageant.
- To Michael Dwyer for help with the microphones, and to Marie Orlich for copying and binding the Christmas Pageant music.
- To Zach Dean for coordinating and leading the Advent Holden Evening Prayer service.
- To Deacon Charlene for coordinating the Advent supper and preparing delicious baked ziti. To Lori Vanderwaren and everyone else who helped set up and clean up.
- To the Cline Sargent family, Michael Cline, Gloria & Charlie Chapman, Sara Forchelli, Nancy Kamps-Cook & Angel, Nolan & Makayla Mooney, Bill Schurade, Kathy & Jim Strouse and Nina Thilesen for decorating the church for Christmas.
- To Quinn Anderson, and our senior choir: Tom Brucia, Jennifer Cline-Sargent, Nancy Kamps-Cook, Phyllis Oehler, Marion Schurade, Russ Tomasulo, and Caroline Vogel as well as the Sunday School children for their offerings of Christmas music.
- To Caroline Vogel for leading our youth choir members Hudson Diturri, Erin Dwyer, Sara Forchelli, Elizabeth Kamelhar, Nolan Mooney, Olivia Orlich, Sophie Orlich, Aidan Sargent and Eric Sargent as well as the Sunday school children for their offerings of Christmas music.
- To Sara Forchelli, Olivia Orlich, Sophie Orlich & Aidan Sargent for the Advent readings.
- To Pastor Cline for putting together the candles for Christmas Eve.
- To Linda Smith for delivering the Giving Tree gifts to the New Life Center.
- To Sue Bogen and Ed Finn for delivering food and clothing to The New Life Center.
- Thank you to Eric & Nina Thilesen for donating the hay for the crèche.
- To Bob Altman for painting the radiator in the stairway, for tightening loose pews and the loose railing leading to the sanctuary.

Congratulations!!

Taylor Schaeffer is the first female wrestler in the history of John F. Kennedy High School to win a wrestling match. She beat her male opponent from Great Neck North High School 6 to 4.

Way to go Taylor!

MEMORIALS

Designated to the memorial fund:
In memory of:

Muriel Oehler
The Waldron Family

Window decorations for Advent
In memory of:

Norbert & Stephen Drewes
Deacon Charlene Drewes

AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop at Amazon? Did you know that just by shopping on the website, Saint John can earn money?

If instead of going to Amazon.com, you simply go to

https://smile.amazon.com

0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to the church. The first time you visit this site and sign in you will be asked to choose a charitable organization before you begin shopping. Once you have selected Saint John Lutheran Church, it will be your charity of choice going forward.

LWR Quilting resumes
Thursday January 5
10:00 a.m.

More volunteers are always welcome. You do not need to know how to sew!! There are many ways to help.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The children worked hard on our pageant for this year, "Christmas Treasures," held on Sunday, December 18 and once again added something special to our worship service. Thank you to all of the students and parents who made this possible. Special thanks to Quinn Anderson, Nicole Kamelhar, Kathleen Klatman, Faith Dwyer and Nicholas Harper for all of their help.

Quinn Anderson and Caroline Vogel prepared the Sunday School children to sing *Go Tell It On The Mountain* after the sermon and the youth choir to sing *Once In Royal David's City* as the anthem at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. The children delivered great performances once again.

We would like to thank our confirmands who did a great job reading the Advent passages each week. Thanks also to our acolytes and choir who helped with the candle lighting.

Thank you for your terrific response to the "Giving Tree" program once again. We provided gifts to people who otherwise might not have received anything on Christmas. It is always a wonderful illustration for our kids to see how our generosity provides for others who are less fortunate.

In the new year we will be working on more music and continuing to collect benevolence funds for Renatha's tuition.

The next Intergenerational Bible study & bagels will be on Sunday, February 5.

Church Undecorating
Saturday, January 7
2017
9:30 a.m.

We need helping hands to pack away the inside and outside Christmas decorations at church. Many hands make light work so please consider coming down to volunteer!

Reminder!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 29
following worship

Soup & sandwich luncheon
Youth will be teaching Sunday School so the teachers may attend the meeting

REPORTS DUE JANUARY 8

LUTHERANS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS THEN AND NOW:

Sponsored by
the Long Island Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue

The Rev. Laurie Cline
Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church
Bellmore

The Rev. Msgr. Donald Beckmann
Pastor, St. Ignatius Martyr Roman Catholic Church
Long Beach

Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
(snow date January 25)
St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church
3100 Hempstead Turnpike, Levittown • 516-731-4220 • www.stbernardchurch.org

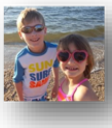
"Now, in the context of the commemoration of the Reformation of 1517, we have a new opportunity to accept a common path, one that has taken shape over the past 50 years in the ecumenical dialogue between the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic church."

Joint Declaration of Unity of Pope Francis and the Rev. Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation

Epiphany Celebration

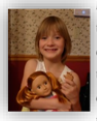
Sunday, January 8, 2017
10:00 a.m.
St. Francis Episcopal Church
1692 Bellmore Avenue

Save the Date...



Help bring Irina back fundraiser

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Beer Hall at the Plattduetsche Biergarten,
1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY 11010



Many of you know that we are trying to adopt Irina, an 8-year-old girl from the Ukraine. Until all the issues are worked out and paperwork is approved, we can only host her for the holidays and during the summer. We didn't anticipate hosting her for several years before completing the adoption and none of the fees to host are applied towards the adoption. So, we are holding this fundraiser with the help of the Plattduetsche to ensure we can host Irina until we can officially adopt her. We thank you for your support. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer at (516) 659-4703.

$20 donation at the door (under 18 free)

Authentic German food and beer, other beverages available for purchase

Raffles, live music, great friends—all the perfect ingredients for a fun night!

SPECIAL GIVING

Not sure what categories you can designate your special giving to? Here are a few ideas:

Altar flowers	*INN Cooking*	*Lutheran World Relief*
Social Ministry	*Church utilities*	*Snow removal*
Debt reduction	*Food pantry*	*Lutheran Disaster Relief*
Lawn Care	*WELCA Funds*	*Parsonage utilities*
World Hunger	*Youth*	*Undesignated memorials*

Too much to choose from? Right now

Deficit Reduction
.
is in need of donations.

BISHOP EATON'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I remember my home growing up. It was on the west side of Cleveland… I still dream about it. It was a place where I felt safe, where my family was and it was full of wonderful Christmas memories. My senior year of college, my parents moved to the shores of Lake Erie. It's every west sider's dream in Cleveland to get to the lake, and they finally made it. But my home was gone. In fact, I had to find directions to my parents' home for Christmas break.

I still dream about the home where I grew up. I still miss it and can still remember every feature of it. And I realize that all of us have a deep longing for home. At Christmastime, I think it's especially poignant and deep for people. Many of our Christmas carols talk about being home for Christmas and how hard it is when we're not.

Then I remembered that Mary and Joseph were not home for Christmas that first year. They were far from their home, far from their people. They were way down in Bethlehem, far from Nazareth. How disorienting that must have been for them.

But the truth is, Mary and Joseph were exactly at home for Christmas because with them was the Christ child. Jesus is our true home. That's our hope at Christmastime and our hope the year round. We are never far from home because Christ is as near to us as our own breath or our own pulse. So, wherever you find yourself this year, dear church, remember that Jesus is with you, and you are home for Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SOCIAL MINISTRY FEATURE

The New Life School is a non-public institution run by Lutheran Social Services in the South Bronx. The school is comprised of students from the five boroughs that are emotionally disturbed and or learning disabled that the NYC Department of Education is no longer equipped to educate. The mission of the New Life School is to "educate students in time to make a difference."

The students have all suffered abuse or trauma and most do not live with their families, but in foster homes, group homes and shelters. Many are in gangs and have a history of drug use. For some, the breakfast and lunch provided by the school are the only meals they will eat in a day. It is not uncommon to find children here who have already spent time in mental institutions or in jail. All of these factors contribute to behaviors that need to be addressed before education can even begin so the school strives to provide a therapeutic environment where the students can feel safe and learn at their own pace.

The staff is made up of professional teachers, social workers, occupational therapists, intensive behavioral therapists and many other dedicated support staff who are all committed to helping the students overcome their challenges and receive a good education. Our own Danielle Branciforti is among the dedicated teaching staff and has brought to our attention that they are working with limited resources and supplies, especially in music, art and physical education. The congregational life committee here at Saint John is organizing our St. Patrick's Day dinner and the funds raised will be donated to The New Life School to help them in their mission to provide the best environment, care and education to their students.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who made donations of food and clothing that were donated to the New Life Center and the LICC. Many thanks to Ed Finn and Sue Bogen for delivering these items.

Barbara Waldron once again did a great job coordinating the "Giving Tree" gift program. Many families in need had a merry Christmas thanks to the generosity of the congregation at Saint John. Thank you to Linda Smith for delivering the gifts to the New Life Center in time for Christmas.

WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A

Cooking for the I.N.N. is on Tuesday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m. Helping hands are always welcome.

The next WELCA Bible study will be held on Friday, January 27 at Grace North Bellmore. Pastor Krauser will lead us in "No Other Gospel: Galations" from the January/February, 2017 issue of *Gather* Magazine.

GREETINGS FROM TANZANIA!

Renatha is looking forward to her third year at Hekima Girls Secondary School. I hope I will have some additional information for you at the beginning of the year. I was able to visit her briefly in October; I am always happy to see her, but the visit was too short. You all at St. John's have invested so much time and money into Renatha's future. I truly appreciate all you have done.

Keep her (and us!) in your prayers.
Asante sana,
Gayle

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **1st Sunday of Christmas** **10:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols** 	2 **Office Closed in observance of New Year's Day**	3 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	4	5 **LWR Quilting** **10:00 a.m.** **Adult Bible study12:00 p.m.** **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	6 **Epiphany of Our Lord** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	7 **Church Undeco-rating 9:30 a.m.**
8 **Baptism of Our Lord** **10:00 a.m. Worship with St. Francis**	9 ***February Eagle Deadline***	10 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.** **INN Cooking 5:30 p.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	11	12 **LWR Quilting** **10:00 a.m.** **Adult Bible study** **12:00 p.m.** **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	13 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	14
15 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany** **9:30 a.m. Holy Communion** **Council meeting following worship** **10:45 a.m. Sunday School**	16 **MLK Jr. Day** **Office closed**	17 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	18 LARC 7:30 p.m.	19 **LWR Quilting** **10:00 a.m.** **Adult Bible study** **12:00 p.m.** **Belair 2:00 p.m.** **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	20 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	21 Carving Club 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
22 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany** **9:30 a.m. Holy Communion** **10:45 a.m. Sunday School**	23 Garden Club 12:00 p.m.	24 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	25	26 **LWR Quilting** **10:00 a.m.** **Adult Bible study** **12:00 p.m.** **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	27 **WELCA Bible study 10:00 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	28
29 **4th Sunday after Epiphany** **9:30 a.m. Holy Communion** **10:45 a.m. Sunday School** **Annual Meeting following worship, lunch included** 	30	31				

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, January 1 – Lessons & Carols 10:00 a.m.
Monday, January 2 – Office Closed in observance of New Year's Day
Saturday, January 7 – Church undecorating 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, January 8 – Worship at St. Francis 10:00 a.m.
Deadline for annual reports
Monday, January 16 – February Eagle deadline
Friday, January 27 – WELCA Bible study at Grace N. Bellmore 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 29 – Annual congregational meeting following worship ***(reports due by January 8)***

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2150 Centre Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710

Phone: 516-785-4331
Fax: 516-785-4331
E-mail: StJBellmore@gmail.com
Web site: www.stjohnbellmore.org

Find us On

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES TO:
STJBELLMORE@GMAIL.COM

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE EAGLE IS JANUARY 16

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE