

St. James'-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
119-15 135th Avenue
South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am
Visit us at SouthOzoneParkChurch.org

The Messenger

Summer 2022 Edition

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the name of God. As we launch into the summer of 2022, there are a number of events to attend – graduations parties, wedding receptions, celebrations and in-person social gatherings.

However, there is an underlying uneasiness – a certain apprehension as this summer is the first in 2 years with COVID vaccines being available to all and since travel restrictions are removed.

It is also during this season that the most vulnerable among us will become marginalized and go without food, clothing, shelter or health-care – the basic necessities of life. So, this where you and I become partners in ministry in doing the best we can with the resources we have, to prevent the cycle of poverty to manifest itself over and over again.

In the Luke's gospel, Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." (9:62) In other words, no one who after making a promise and does not follow through is fit for the kingdom of God – no ifs or buts – no excuses. No one with regrets about serving God or fulfilling Jesus' mandate, is fit for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus continues to share in chapter 10 (v. 25-37) that inheriting eternal life requires "loving our neighbors." The story Jesus told is about putting words into action. While the lawyer wondered about attaining the reward, Jesus talked about eternal life now. In essence, Jesus told the lawyer eternal life is in the doing... now, and not sometime in the future.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about the Samaritan in his last sermon, "I've been to the Mountain Top," the day before he was assassinated. He compelled his listeners to employ a "dangerous unselfishness."

Speaking of the Jericho Road, Dr. King said: "It's windy and meandering, conducive to ambushing – that's a dangerous road. So, the first question that the priest asked, the first question that the Levite asked was, 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?'"

But then, King continued, "The Samaritan came by and reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?' That's the question for us tonight," King said to those gathered... "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

That was the question back then and our question today: If we do not stop to help our neighbor, what will happen to them? Remember, it was Jesus who shared: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." Luke 12:48

So, as you engage in your summer picnics, celebrations, retreats and travels, it is my hope that you be mindful of those in need and know that you are never alone on this journey we call life – for Jesus is with us, as promised. Amen!





Part of our mission as a called-out community of believers known as the church is to bring the gospel (the good news of Jesus) to the world. St. James'-St. Matthew's has identified a need in our community for food, and a Food Ministry was launched.

In collaboration with Stacey's Pantry and Key Food Supermarkets, we launched this new ministry providing this monthly service on the 4th Thursday of the month—the next program is set for **July 28 and August 25 from 5 PM to 6 PM.**

What this means is that there is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your lives of service to God and your neighbors. Please contact the Church office either by phone, 718-845-8770 or email stjstm@aol.com and let us know if you have any resources, be it time, talents, and treasures, to grow this new ministry.



We still need **Ushers, Lectors, and Assistant Ministers.** Please contact Pastor Dabee or the Church Office to indicate your willingness to help make worship a welcoming and meaningful experience for everyone in attendance. Thanks in advance!



**95th Anniversary Celebrations:
Sunday, August 28th at 10 AM
(Outreach Picnic following Worship)**

**Synod Bishop Paul Egensteiner
will be with us on August 28, 2022**

**& October 30th at 10 AM
with a Celebration Worship Service**



To all students, teachers and parents—we salute you and pray God's guidance on the next chapter of your lives.

Grace Jennings graduated from The Brooklyn Latin School. She accepted the transfer offer from the College of Agriculture and Animal Science, Cornell University in 2023. Grace will begin her studies at Stony Brook University.



Trista Pestano graduated from The High School for Law, Advocacy and Community Justice. She will attend Baruch College, majoring in Psychology.

God's richest blessings and congratulations to all graduates and everyone accomplishing their life goals during these times !

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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Contact us by Mail:

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