

St. James' - St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

119-15 135th Avenue

South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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"I am bringing you
good news of great joy
for all the people."



We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am

Visit us at SouthOzoneParkChurch.org

Greetings favored ones!

According to Luke 2:14, "...there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" These words should sound familiar, for they form part of the narrative of the birth of Jesus.

Every year, we hear the same story, but this year, I would like for you to note the order of thing: Glory to God first; then the peace will follow. To God be the glory for sending the Son, Jesus, our newborn King.

I thank God for each of you and pray that you would be "filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ-child." **Amen**



The Seafarers International House—New York City port chaplains bring satchels filled with gifts to the ships for the holiday. Every crew member on a ship regardless of their faith or nationality will open their satchels, each containing:

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or not (M-L-XL)
- Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
- One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL)
- One Knitted Winter Cap (scarf optional)
- One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Health Snack Bar
- A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

Throughout Advent and Christmas this year, we will gather these items for donation to the Seafarers International House (www.sihnyc.org). You pick the colors, styles and brands as you go shopping this season—thank you Church !

The Messenger

Christmas 2022 Edition



*Thank you to all who supported
Operation Christmas Child this year.
A total of 48 shoe/gift boxes were filled.*



Advent Worship & Children's Nativity Play

Sunday, December 18 — 10 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Saturday, December 24 — 7 pm

Christmas Day Celebration Worship

Sunday, December 25 — 10 am

Naming of Jesus/First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 1 — 10 am



Now is the time to join our Church family and immerse yourself in ministry. Anyone wishing to be baptized, baptize their child or children, or are longing in becoming a member of St. James' - St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church are asked to contact Pastor Dabee or the Church office. **Sunday, January 8, 2023** (*Baptism of Our Lord*) is designated as our New Member/Baptism Sunday!



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 a monthly service—the next program is set for Thursday, **December 15th from 3PM to 4PM...**and Thursday, January 19th, 2023 from 3 PM—4PM.



Yes, volunteers are always welcome! 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.

Pastor Call Update

The family of St. James'-St. Matthew's has a strong desire to call a permanent pastor to minister to the worshiping community and beyond. The Ministry Site Profile (a major part of the process) has been completed and submitted but, to ensure the process is fair to both the congregation and the pastor being called, there has to be a Property Inspection, Financial Review and the leadership undergo Anti-Bias/Racism/Sexism training.

In the meantime, Bishop Egensteiner has indicated that he will renew Pastor Romeo Dabee's appointment as Interim effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 with the hope that the call process is completed during this timeframe.

Please continue to keep your church family and leadership in your prayers during this time of transition.



Sunday, December 18, 2022
Special Congregational Meeting
to vote on the **2023 Proposed Budget**.
All members are invited to participate!



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. We have resumed the distribution the **Holy Communion** as we used to in the past...more help needed.



1. Mail-in your Offering Envelopes to the Church—see a “Special Christmas Offering” Envelope enclosed. Now is the perfect time to consider a Special Gift in honor/memory of someone who brought joy to your life.
2. Drop off **in-person during worship** or (please, checks only) Offering Envelopes in our mail slot on the side door, or
3. Contribute via your PayPal Accounts...
<https://www.paypal.me/StJamesStMatthews>

Save the Date

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is set for **Sunday, January 29, 2023**.

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January 29 is also, the date of a “**new**” **worship experience**—Join us in-person!

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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Contact us by Mail:

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Pastor Romeo Dabee

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