

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 Pandemic & us !

Greetings Church family,

On Saturday, March 14, 2020, word was received about the Coronavirus being the source of death to many among us – in New York City and beyond. Our world became very different from what we were accustomed to as this global pandemic prevented many operations from continuing – every industry was affected and the economic, social, political and religious impact has pushed us to our limits.

Words like “lockdown” and “mandates” became the popular and phrases like “Be Wise and Sanitize” and “Do your part – stay 6 feet apart” altered our routines drastically. Someone commented that COVID years are worth ten in “regular” times, but it seems that we have been cooped up for a loooooong time, and the adverse effects of such time are amped up and on full display.

Tensions rise quickly to a boiling point when masks and vaccine mandates are being debated, tempers flare up and everyone is on edge – doing their best not to trigger an argument or confrontation. Travel by air, sea or land has become nightmarish for hundreds of thousands and the end is nowhere in sight.

However, there is a deep desire for things to return to some normalcy, but the jury is still out on what is “normal” – it is complex. According to Associate Professor Anthony Bateza (in an article in the Living Lutheran entitled: Pandemic Wisdom from Luther – October 2021) “Our

picture of how things used to be is merely an exercise in wishful thinking or creative misremembering. The better times pre-pandemic probably weren't as rosy as we imagine.” Dr. Bateza continued, “Our limited perspective leads us to overlook the genuine challenges our neighbors near and far endured in those times when we thought everything was fine.”

For many, the Coronavirus global pandemic has been devastating given the loss of employment, businesses, relationships and most of all, the loss of loved ones. For the others, this period of isolation or fast from social in-person engagement ought to be a time for grateful reflection to God's preserving us – keeping us among the living (Ps. 66:8).

Dr. Bateza concluded, “While going back to normal is not an option, before us lie opportunities to move forward with our God who is always reforming us.” It is my hope and prayer that we use this time to pause, slow down and calm down and let our gaze be fixed on God who may appear to be idle but is offering us a time to be still and know that God is near.



October 31— Reformation Sunday Worship.

Join us for a special fellowship as we remember the beginning of the reformation movement and launch our 95th year of Christian witness in this part of God's vineyard. It is a great time to be the Church—yes, *it's still outdoors!*

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES

Yes, we resumed in-person Worship Services at 10 AM every Sunday. We maintain strict COVID-19 safety protocols of safe-distancing from fellow worshippers and require a mask to be worn inside the building. Come, taste and see the glory of worshiping in community!

Email us at stjstm@aol.com or call us if you have questions regarding worship or if you do not get our weekly email blasts. "Like us" on Facebook to get these updates when posted. Video recordings of **Sunday Worship** are posted on our website for your viewing: www.SouthOzoneParkChurch.org



As we resumed in-person worship services, there is a need for **Ushers, Lectors and Assistant Ministers**.

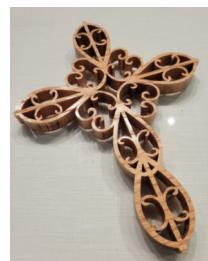
Please contact Pastor Dabee or the Church Office and indicate your willingness to help make worship a welcoming experience for everyone in attendance. Thanks in advance !



We would like acknowledge everyone who has continued to contribute their offerings towards the ministry of our Church. For those of you who are wondering how to make your contributions, you may:

1. Mail-in your Offering Envelopes to the Church—see a "Special Offering" Envelope enclosed. Our Roof is slated to be replaced in the fall.
2. Drop off (please, Checks only) your Offering Envelopes in our mail slot on the side door or
3. Contribute via your PayPal Accounts... <https://www.paypal.me/StJamesStMatthews>

"Pastor Kuttler's Farewell"



On Sunday, September 5th we bid farewell and Godspeed to The Rev. Karen Kuttler. We thank God for her witness of the gospel among us and pray that God provides her some well deserved respite in her home state of Wisconsin. Thank you Pastor Kuttler !



On August 4, 2020, Hurricane Isaias caused major damages to our Church roof. Some emergency repairs were done back then, but now we have to replace the entire roof at the cost of \$35,000. We are thankful to our generous donors who contributed Easter Memorials Gifts towards this project. We pray for a safe and timely construction process.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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Contact us by Mail:

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119-15 135th Avenue

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Office Telephone: 718-845-8770

Office Email: stjstm@aol.com

Website: SouthOzoneParkChurch.org

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Pastor Romeo Dabee

718-749-4953 (Pastoral Emergencies)

Email: PastorDabee@gmail.com