

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

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**We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am**  
**Visit us at [SouthOzoneParkChurch.org](http://SouthOzoneParkChurch.org)**

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:5).*

Sounds familiar? I hope it does, for it forms the basis of the season of Advent leading to Christmas and the centerpiece to our faith in Jesus—the Christ-child. But there's more, with the lighting of one candle, Advent begins on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> this year.

With the lighting of one candle, Advent begins. We have been here before—with one candle. A candle to offer a prayer. A candle to remember death. A candle to mark the passing of another year.

Whether in the church building, around the dinner table, or in the silence of your room, light a candle you are encouraged to: Offer a prayer. Sit in the silence. Offer yourself. Listen. Wait.



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 the season of Advent, we will gather these items for donation to the Seafarers International House ([www.sihnyc.org](http://www.sihnyc.org)). You pick the colors, styles and brands as you go shopping this season!

## ***The Messenger***

*November 2022 Edition*



*Thank you to all who supported Operation Christmas Child this year—a total of 49 shoe/gift boxes were filled for the children.*



### ***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





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, **November 17th from 3PM to 4PM**...and Thursday, December 15th 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](mailto: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 worshipping 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** - Special Congregational Meeting to approve the 2023 Proposed Budget. All members are invited to participate!



We made it to 95! Thank you to all who made the anniversary celebrations a huge success. Now...you know what's next ; )



**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

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**Contact us by Mail:**

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**119-15 135th Avenue**

**South Ozone Park, NY 11420**

**Office Telephone: 718-845-8770**

**Office Email: [stjstm@aol.com](mailto:stjstm@aol.com)**

**Website: [SouthOzoneParkChurch.org](http://SouthOzoneParkChurch.org)**

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**Pastor Romeo Dabee**

**718-749-4953 (Pastoral Emergencies)**

**Email: [PastorDabee@gmail.com](mailto:PastorDabee@gmail.com)**