

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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

**We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am**

**Visit us at [SouthOzoneParkChurch.org](http://SouthOzoneParkChurch.org)**

## **The Messenger**

*February 2023 Edition*



On January 29, 2023, we concluded the Annual Congregational meeting with the following prayer: *O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*” ELW, Evening Prayer

Each of knows that we are living in turbulent times. No one is certain of what the future hold, but we seek God’s guidance and wisdom going forward. However, one thing is sure – the Word of God and the work of God continues. For us at St. James’-St. Matthew’s, we are in our 96<sup>th</sup> year as a worshipping community called out to serve God and our neighbors we have from God; therefore we press on, despite the challenges.

As a church, we are grateful to all our Council members who served as leaders of the Church – especially through these volatile times. They were Vashti Singh, who served as President for 6 years, Ziningi Nduli as Vice-President for 3 years, and Ralph Green as Financial Secretary. Ralph Green will continue as Head Offering Counter and reporting on all financial receipts.

Following the election (Jan. 29th) and installation (Feb. 5th) of the Church Council members, the 2023 Council comprises:

- ◇ Pastor Romeo Dabee
- ◇ Scott Campbell – President
- ◇ Ashley Sawh – Vice President
- ◇ Eileen Varano – Secretary
- ◇ Ella Bisember – Treasurer
- ◇ Gerri Holder – Volunteer
- ◇ Margaret Jairam – Fellowship
- ◇ Gale Kirchner – Christian Education
- ◇ Tricia Singh Harduwar – Worship



**Is February 22, 2023**

**We worship at 7 PM**

*Save the Date*

***Palm Sunday – April 2***

***Maundy Thursday – April 6***

***Good Friday – April 7***

***Easter Saturday for Children – April 8***

***Easter Sunday – April 9***



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, **February 16th from 3PM to 4PM**...and Thursday, March 23rd, 2023 from 5PM—6PM.

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.



**Lent 2023:**

**What Would I Be Giving Up or Taking On?**

Lent is the season when we seek to draw closer to Jesus by taking on simple disciplines for the 40 days (not including Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Whether it involves adding something positive to your life or taking away something, the point is to strengthen you spiritually and increase your awareness of God in your life. What do you do?

Join us at **7 PM** every Wednesday in Lent:

*March 1 – Your Lenten Practices*

*March 8 – Disciplines and Practices*

*March 15 – Discipline and Disciple*

*March 22 – Exercise “No pain, no gain”*

*March 29 – Disciplines to habits*



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

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 or the Church office.



*We need to restock our Food Pantry shelves and are seeking donations of non-perishable cans and packages of food items.*

*Our 2023 Lenten Service Project as a church will be to restock our shelves so we can continue this vital ministry to the community.*

*In 2022 we shared 390 bags of food items impacting 1,224 lives !*



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

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**Pastor Romeo Dabee**

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

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