

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



15 Things to know about the Reformation

1. The word “Protestant” was first used formally around 1529. “Protestant” originates from the Latin word *protestari*, meaning “declare publicly, testify, protest.”
2. The name “Lutheran” originated as a derogatory term used against Martin Luther by German scholastic theologian Johann Maier von Eck during the Leipzig Debate in 1519.
3. While reformers rejected marriage as a sacrament of the church, they expanded the role of the church in marriage. Couples took an oath before God and the ceremony was moved from outside the church on the doorstep—a medieval practice—to inside the sanctuary in front of the altar.
4. The Luther rose (or Luther seal—above) was created at the request of printers to have a personal symbol representing the reformer’s faith that could serve as a mark indicating something was an authorized publication of Luther’s. It became widely recognized as the symbol for Lutheranism, and still is today.
5. The Reformation paved the way for what we still refer to as a “Protestant work ethic.” Luther’s teachings about the “priesthood of all believers” helped dissolve the wall between “temporal” and “spiritual” realms. In doing so, everyday work and labor was affirmed and seen as pleasing to God; it was no longer considered an inferior life to that of a monastic life or the priesthood.

6. Education was set on a far-reaching course of reforming thanks in part to Luther’s advocacy and ideas that a proper, well-organized and broad education for all children—not just those of the wealthy elite—would benefit the state as well as the church.
7. Prior to the Reformation, congregational singing—and even talking—during church services wasn’t standard practice in Germany.
8. Luther composed more than 40 hymns in his lifetime, and in 1529 wrote and composed the tune for what became known as “The Battle Hymn of the Reformation”—today called “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”
9. If Luther could have had his way, he would have probably deleted the books of Esther, Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelation from the Bible. They were among his least favorite books of the Bible.
10. The first Lutheran worship service in North America is believed to have taken place in what is now Manitoba, Canada, on January 23, 1620.
11. On April 18, 1994, the Church Council of the ELCA officially repudiated and apologized for Luther’s words and teachings that have been appropriated by anti-Semites for the teaching of hatred and violence toward Judaism or toward the Jewish people.
12. Today the United States has more Protestants than any other country, about 160 million. Nigeria is second, with nearly 60 million Protestants. China has the third-largest Protestant population, approx. 58 million.
13. About half of all Christians worldwide today are Catholic (50 percent), while more than one-third are Protestant (37 percent).
14. Today, more than 200 denominations and churches in North America have histories connected to the Reformation.
15. The beginning of the Reformation is traced back to October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses (against the Roman Catholic Church) on the Church’s door in Wittenberg, Germany.

Excerpts from *The Living Lutheran Magazine*, 2017.



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 partnership with Stacey's Pantry (St. Jacobus, Woodside), St. Paul's, Richmond Hill, and Key Food and Stop and Shop Supermarkets, we launched this new ministry providing a monthly service —the next program is set for Thursday, **November 20th from 3PM to 4PM** and Thursday, December 18th from 3 PM—4PM. Yes, volunteers are always welcome at 1PM!



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.



On Sunday, October 26, 2025, we welcomed into our church family the Barker and Clarkson families. Janay & Jayla (front) Carvear with parents Sonia & Winston and newly baptized Cayden Princess Margaret & husband, Eric Clarkson.



*Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday & Fellowship
November 2nd following All Saints' Worship*



*Operation Christmas Child is here!
Boxes are available —
Please return filled boxes by
Sunday, November 9th. Thank you!*



*How will you spend the extra hour you've
been blessed with this weekend?
Maybe - pray, read, rest, sleep, work...*



Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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Contact us by Mail:

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