

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

Greetings favored ones!

January 27th was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Why January 27th you may ask? Well, it was on that day in 1945 that the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated. Such acts were demonic – the epitome of evil which resulted in the genocide of a third of the Jewish people, along with countless minorities by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945.

In 2023, on a study trip to Germany, my colleague The Rev. Michael Kennert took us to the platform in Grunewald, on the outskirts of Berlin - there Jews were loaded onto cattle-cars and sent to Auschwitz. It was eerie to visit the memorial and see the tracks that led so many to their death. On 29th January, 1943 the last train load of 1,000 Jews from Berlin departed from that station.

Today, neo-Nazism is on the rise across Europe and here in these United States. I can understand the tensions in the middle-east, but right here in New York City as well? Surprisingly, such acts of hatred are not only reserved for Jews, everyone else or the “other” is also being subjected to the same discrimination, violent racism and hatred.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his Letter from the Birmingham Jail addressing some clergymen questioning his civil rights protests wrote, “The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people.” (1963)

Do not be silent—shout out, do not hold back and shine the Epiphany light of Christ on the evil around you, but most of all, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

Reflecting the light of Christ,
Pastor Romeo Dabee

The Messenger

February 2026 Edition



February 18, 2026—Worship Service with Ashes and Holy Communion at 7 PM

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We journey through the season of Lent with Mid-week Devotions at 7 PM

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most-High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.” *Psalms 46:4-5*

By all indications, a new day is dawning among us – dare we say the beginning of the end? But, regardless of our opinion of the timeline, it is at this juncture, we are forced to ask ourselves and our fellow sojourners: ***How are you doing?***



Week 1: February 25th at 7 PM
How are you doing? *Physically*

Week 2: March 4th at 7 PM
How are you doing? *Emotionally*

Week 3: March 11th at 7 PM
How are you doing? *Financially*

Week 4: March 18th at 7 PM
How are you doing? *Academically*

Week 5: March 25th at 7 PM
How are you doing? *Spiritually*



Food Ministry

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, **February 26th from 3PM to 4PM**...and Thursday, March 26th, 3 PM—4PM.



Yes, volunteers are always welcome 2 hours before to help prepare bags! 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.



Begins at 6 PM—every Wednesday

From February 25th to March 25th

Please sign up now to host !



...Still Wanted !

Ushers, Lectors, Assistant Ministers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild Team.



Meeting Update

Council and Officers for 2026/7 are:

President—Scott Campbell

Vice President—Ziningi Nduli

Secretary—Eileen Varano

Treasurer—Ella Bisember

Financial Secretary—Ralph Green

Worship—Devika Armogan

Altar Guild—Babsy Khargie

Food Program—Gerri Holder

Faith Formation—Dularie Ramdin

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday—March 29th at 10 AM

Maundy Thursday—April 2nd at 7 PM

Good Friday—April 3rd at 7 PM

Children's Easter Program

Saturday, April 4th at 10 AM

Easter Celebration—April 5th at 10 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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Contact us by Mail:

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