

**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**



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

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

**The Messenger**

*March 2026 Edition*



Dear siblings in Christ,

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2:4).*

In our Lenten journey, we are reminded of our dependence on God, and we are sustained by hope in the future peace God has promised. As war involving the United States, Israel and Iran intensifies and spreads, we lament how far off that promise seems. We do not know how many people have been killed, but we know the number will continue to grow. Early reports indicate that more than 100 Iranian schoolgirls and several U.S. service members are among them.

The church of Jesus Christ is called to proclaim the peace of God's eternal reign and to work for an earthly peace here and now. The ELCA social message "Living in a Time of Terrorism" states that this earthly peace is a "precious yet fragile good." Its existence depends on leaders who prioritize diplomacy over military engagement and deterrence over war, and on citizens who hold government accountable whenever military action is considered.

With many of you, I am distressed that a robust, public discernment through congressional authorization did not occur prior to the

United States' engagement in this war. As Lutherans, we affirm that government and the order that just laws provide are gifts of God for our safety and well-being. This war does not represent the promotion of this just order but rather its failure.

The costs in lives and safety of this failure will be borne by those least able to avoid it — children, families and those without the means to flee. Its deadly toll has been, and will continue to be, paid with the lives of our neighbors, including our siblings in Christ in the Middle East.

This moment underscores the urgent need for robust, well-resourced diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. Our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land have asked our church to pray fervently for peace and safety and to advocate for the dignity and security of all people. ELCA Witness in Society will continue to provide opportunities for this advocacy.

As members of the body of Christ, join me in prayerful, hopeful solidarity with our siblings and neighbors who suffer today. Together, We mourn the rush to war and the combatants and noncombatants who have lost their lives. We yearn for creation's fulfillment in "a new heaven and a new earth" where death and pain "will be no more" (Revelation 21:1, 4). We strive for justice and peace in all the earth, strengthened by faith in the crucified and risen Lord to persist. We trust that, through God who sustains us, our weariness and fear will not overcome us.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





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, **March 26th from 3PM to 4PM...**and Thursday, April 23, 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](mailto:stjstm@aol.com) and let us know if you have any resources, be it time, talents, and treasures, to grow this new ministry.



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

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***

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

### **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



*Begins at 6 PM—every Wednesday*

*From February 25th to March 25th*



*Saturday, March 28*

*All are welcome from 9 AM to 12 noon  
to help with some springtime cleaning.*

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

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**Contact us by Mail:**

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**Pastor Romeo Dabee**

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

**Email: PastorDabee@gmail.com**