

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – April 2021

## Growth

### Pastor's Paragraphs

My email inbox is again receiving a message purported to be from Franklin Graham (son of Billy Graham) about the future of America. I say "again" and "purported" because, though it claims to be recent, various versions of this email have been circulating since 2012. While Franklin Graham has indeed lamented the rise of secular humanism, he does not preach the racist and sexist messages this email claims.

There's nothing new about taking a few authentic words from a famous person and adding them to something they would never say. It's been done for millennium. But it does raise the question of how do you know what is true and what is not? The internet can be a fast and easy way to fact check something. But after doing a bit of fact checking on the Franklin Graham message I discovered that some sites have been created for the purpose of perpetuating the lie! Deceptions can have many layers. There's also nothing new about that!

Our Christian faith is built upon the truth and authority of God. We say that the word of God is the Bible. Though the Bible is an ancient, complex, and even self-contradictory collection of writings, it is the rule and norm for our faith. We do not hide the Bible away in some secret room and say only an elite few can access it. No, everyone can have their own copy. No one is allowed to add to it. No one is allowed to subtract from it. Anyone and everyone is welcome to read it and interpret it. Or perhaps I should say 'attempt' to interpret it. There are some passages that leave even the most astute biblical scholars scratching their heads! My point is that ultimate truth is open and available to you.

As we enter the season of Easter we focus on the resurrection of Jesus. That is a huge -and scientifically impossible – claim to make. Since the Bible is our only source for such a claim does that toss out any authority we may claim for our scripture? Not at all. That can actually give us a path for interpretation.

Five different authors in the Bible claim the historic reality of the resurrection of Jesus (Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Having five sources proves nothing. They could all be conspiring in a deception after all. But it is that each of the five claims it while also struggling

with the impossibility of it all. The Bible's authority for our lives is not in demanding that we accept miracles without question. Nor is it by claiming it to have absolute answers to complex problems. The Bible's authority for our lives is that it takes us into the faith struggles of those who have gone before us. The Bible is not something you read through once, learn, and then apply. It is something you return to again and again; bringing to it your life and its issues over and over. There you find witnesses to God's love and God's grace. There you find the truth to judge all other things – including purported truths from the internet!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

## Christian Education Updates

### Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school has returned to being in-person. Please be sure to follow all infectious disease prevention recommendations.

### Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school returns to being in-person on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>. It will begin viewing the 2018 movie *Come Sunday*.

### Confirmation Class

Confirmation class continues online. Confirmands will continue to receive a link for Zoom each week.

### Men's Breakfast

The men's breakfast meets in-person on Wednesdays at 8:30. They are meeting in the sanctuary. The usual breakfast rotation is still on hold. The group will begin viewing the movie *The Two Popes* after Easter

### Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study is meeting Wednesdays at noon. They have been meeting in the sanctuary but will move to the gathering area now that it is warmer. Please talk to Phyllis Henderson or Burdie Gillern for more information.

# Worship



## Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

We'll wrap up our reading of Mark's gospel on April 11. From there we'll start a series from John's gospel looking at some of his key teachings. John has a way of explaining this sometimes complicated topics with stories.

April 4 (Easter) - Mark 16:1-8

April 11 - Mark 16:9-20

April 18 - John 1:1-18 Truth and Wisdom

April 25 - John 6: 41-59 God and Christ

May 2 - John 13: 31 - 14: 14 Church

May 9 - John 14:15-31 Spirit

May 16 - John 17 End Times

## Sunday Worship

As long as trends with the pandemic continue to go well the 8:30 service will resume on Easter Sunday. 10:30 will continue as both in-person and online. The rotation of communion will also resume with 10:30 having communion the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and 8:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Zoom link for 10:30 is emailed weekly. If you cannot connect to the 10:30 service with a computer: You can still hear and participate in the service with any phone. Use the most appropriate phone number below and enter the meeting number when you are asked.

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 834 9025 1842

Password: 778805

# Service

## New Neighbor Program

In an effort to encourage new families to worship with us at St. John's, we developed the New Neighbor Program. So how does it work? If you have a new neighbor you'd like to welcome, contact Katy Stimmel at (585) 298-6515. She will arrange for a lovely inkwell flower vase to be at church on a Sunday of your choosing. Each flower vase comes with a welcome not ready for you to deliver to your new neighbor! (Flowers arranged by Hopper Hills floral shop in Victor.)



-Thank you to Mike Ross for making the "Gather" sign from the old windows in the old sanctuary.

-Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for cutting back shrubs and cleaning up some of the flower beds for spring.

-Thank you to Jim Spawton for providing the technical leadership on Zoom for the conference's midweek Lenten worship services.

-Thank you to Mary Zuege for steam cleaning the carpet in the sanctuary.

-Thank you to those who provided special music in worship recently: Beth Schroeder, Nathan Cheung, Dave Bullwinkle, Karen Spawton, Jim Spawton, and Wilma Townsend.



-The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.

-Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.

-Gary Myers who is being treated for multiple myeloma.

-Linda Ellis whose cancer issues continue.

-Knut Halvorson, who is living in Atria Nursing Home in Penfield.

-Eleanor Spawton, Jim Spawton's mother, who has a weakening heart valve.

-Karen Anderson, friend of Scott Flood, who has COVID which has caused serious heart failure issues.

-Finn Thomas, great grandchild of the Shulers, as they celebrate his birth.

-Becca (Boisseau) DeCann as she continues to manage medical conditions from recently giving birth to her son Elijah. And we give prayers of celebration for Elijah's birth and growing health.

Gary Baker, Julie Stuart's uncle, who is recovering after serious complications from COVID.

## Service (Cont.)



### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Spring is right around the corner. That means daffodils, sunshine, green leaves, warmer days, and our 16th blood drive!

Over the years the Red Cross has collected 440 units of blood; potentially helping 1320 people regain their health.

Our drive will take place on Tuesday, April 6 from 1:00 – 6:00.

We take every precaution to keep things clean and safe. Including everybody wearing masks; all workers gloved; temperature checking everyone; all surfaces cleaned with alcohol wipes after contact; minimum number of volunteers; and prepackaged snacks.

Please go to the [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

## Nuts and Bolts

### March Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Most of the meeting was reports as to how committees are doing and also resuming in-person worship. We will tentatively resume Sunday school in-person and worship beginning around Easter. We'll continue to monitor the pandemic and make further decisions about reopening.

### February Financials

YTD Income	\$38,891.00
YTD Expenses	\$33,523.13
Difference	\$5,367.87

## Fun



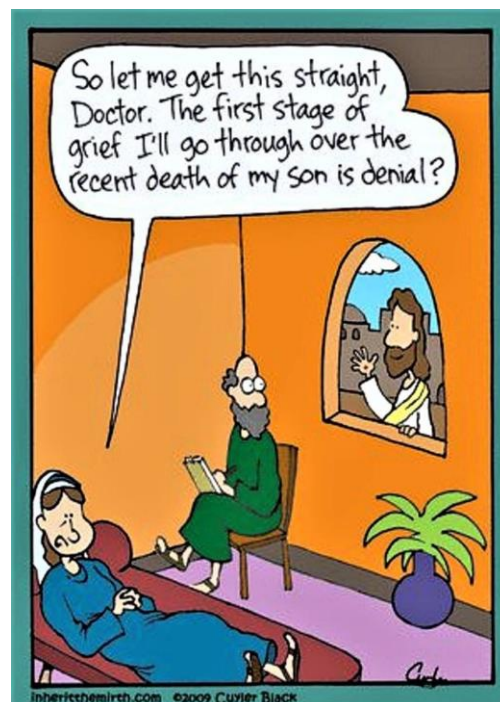
### March Bible Trivia Answers

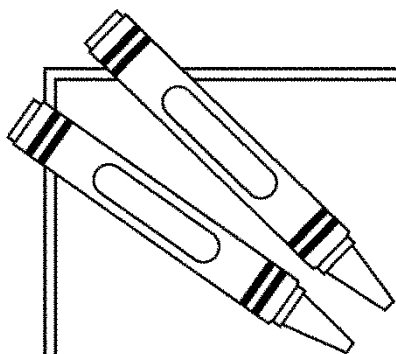
1. What two disciples ask to sit at Jesus' right and left when he is in glory? Answer: James and John (Mark 10:35-40)
2. Only one person who is healed in Mark's gospel is named. His name is? Answer: Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46)
3. On what does Jesus ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Answer: an unridden colt (Mark 11:2)
4. How many coins does Jesus see the poor widow put into the treasury? Answer: two (Mark 12:42)

### April Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings chosen for Sunday worship.

1. Which of Jesus' disciples betrayed him?
2. Where was Jesus when he was arrested?
3. Who meets the women at the tomb when they come to on Easter?
4. Who said, "Truly this man was God's Son"?





# Just for KIDS

Find the words of these beautiful verses. First, write the word that fits the meaning given. Second, move the letters to the numbered lines below. Then, unscramble the letters that are circled to answer the question!

## Song of Solomon 2:11 - 12

Animal with long ears and cotton tail:                                            
1    2    3    4    5    6

Plants in the yard that we mow:                                     
7    8    9    10    11

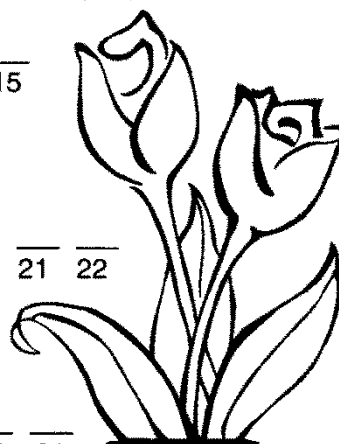
Place where birds lay eggs:                              
12    13    14    15

Baby cow:                              
16    17    18    19

How frogs move from place to place:                       
20    21    22

Make a basket:                                     
23    24    25    26    27

Round object in the night sky:                              
28    29    30    31



"For                      the                                                         is                            ,"  
12    21    23    23    5    12    15    13    8    22    2    14    6

the                             is                                    and                            .  
8    2    5    12    21    26    24    8    7    21    31    13

The                                                                                                   on the earth;  
19    18    21    23    13    8    10    2    22    22    13    2    1

the                             of                                                  has                            ."  
15    5    28    27    10    5    12    7    5    31    7    16    21    28    24

What special time of year does the verse describe?

\_\_\_\_\_

# APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>Maundy Thursday</u>  7:00 Holy Communion	2 <u>Good Friday</u>  7:00 Worship 3-8 Cello Lessons	3
4 <u>Easter</u> 6:00 Holy Communion 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Holy Communion	5  7:00 Boy Scouts	6 Albrecht Durer, 1528, Matthias Grunewald, 1529, Lucas Cranach, 1553, artists	7 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Lenten Worship	8	9 Deitrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, 1945  3-8 Cello Lessons	10 Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, 1557
11 <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12  7:00 Boy Scouts	13	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study	15	16  3-8 Cello Lessons	17
18 <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	19  7:00 Church Council (Zoom) 7:00 Boy Scouts	20	21 Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, 1109 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study	22	23 Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, 1960  3-8 Cello Lessons	24
25 <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26 <u>Mark, Evangelist</u>  7:00 Boy Scouts	27  7:00 Property Committee	28 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study	29 Catherine of Sienna, theologian, 1380	30  3-8 Cello Lessons	



# **St. John's Lutheran Church**

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Grace for Everyone  
-Always-**

*We are a community of faith  
committed to living and sharing the love of God.*

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*Address Service Requested*

**April Newsletter**