

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – April 2022

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

Despite the valiant efforts of every English teacher I've ever had, I've never mastered the use of commas. Where do they go? When are you supposed to use them? Do they matter at all?

Well, yes, of course they matter! Even though I'm sure I'll never master their use, those little symbols can sway the meaning of a sentence tremendously. Consider this sentence from Luke's gospel. Jesus is speaking to the criminal beside him at the crucifixion.

"Truly I tell you today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43) Where should the comma go? Most translators put it after "you". Like this:

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." That suggests that that very day the criminal will be with Jesus in Paradise.

But not all translators agree with that placement. Let's move the comma one word farther along: "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise." Now the sentence has taken on a very different meaning. (Perhaps it's more clear if it's forced into two sentences: "Truly I tell you today. You will be with me in Paradise.")

While scholars debate this, I believe the comma belongs after "today". Twice before in Luke's gospel Jesus has used "today" to refer to his power right then and there. In 4:21 he says to the hometown crowd of Nazareth, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And in 19:9 he tells the Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house."

Telling the criminal that "today" he would be with Jesus in Paradise also doesn't fit with Luke's understanding of time. For Luke, as is the case of most of the Bible's authors, time is only relevant to the living. Once you have died you are beyond the bounds of time. For Jesus to say the criminal would be with him in Paradise today makes no sense. I believe the point of the passage is to show the criminal's incredible trust in Jesus despite all evidence to the contrary on that day. You certainly wouldn't believe a criminal's promises made on the day of his/her execution! And yet this guy hanging beside Jesus does!

This criminal's faith is radical. He is seeing something in Jesus that is deeper than circumstances would suggest. This criminal realizes Jesus is powerful because, despite being innocent, he dies willingly.

As we approach Holy Week in April I hope that we all can see that God works in ways that do not fit with appearances. Or perhaps are even contrary to appearances. Where we see shame God sees wholeness. Where we see loss God can see triumph. Where we see death God is at work bringing about life. That is truly resurrection faith!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Mid-Week Lenten Meals & Study

This year's mid-week Lenten meals and study focuses on Luther's Small Catechism. Using a video course from the Lutheran House of Study we will look again at these foundation parts of faith. Each week starts with a soup and bread dinner at 6:00 and worship at 6:30.



Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school resumes with a look at the gospel of Luke from 1517 Academy. It's a combination video course and discussion. Stop in the middle classroom in the Sunday school wing during the Sunday school hour.

Worship

April Worship Assistants

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Greeters & Ushers	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson	Sue Kaufmann	Helen Crown
Lector (8:30)				
Acolyte	Creed White	Jonathan Buch	Owen Young	Brody Ireland
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau	Gary Boisseau	Gary Boisseau	
Communion Assistants	Greg Zuege		Sue Kaufmann	
Nursery Care				
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann	Bill and Katy Stimmel	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour				



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

Lent wraps up in April and we transition to the Easter season. We'll complete the Galilee portion of Jesus' ministry on April 3. On April 10 we'll turn our attention to Palm Sunday. During Holy Week we'll read through the last days before Jesus' death, and then for the remainder of April we'll focus on the Easter texts from Luke.

- 4/3 Luke 9:1-50
- 4/10 Luke 19:28-48 (Palm Sunday)
- 4/14 Luke 22:1-46 (Maundy Thursday)
- 4/15 Luke 22:47-23:55 (Good Friday)
- 4/17 Luke 24:1-12 (Easter)
- 4/24 Luke 24:13-35

10:30 Worship In-person and Zoom

10:30 is in-person worship in the sanctuary and also by Zoom. 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.

Dial (929) 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 834 9025 1842

Password: 778805



April 10 – Palm Sunday, procession with palms at both services, children's Easter egg hunt

April 14 – Maundy Thursday, 6:00 covered dish dinner in the sanctuary with communion

April 15 – Good Friday, 7:00 Worship

April 17 – Easter, 6:00 Sunrise service of Holy Communion, 9:00 Pancake Breakfast, 10:30 Holy Communion



8:30 Breakfast Church during Lent

Our 8:30 worship service will explore a "breakfast church" model during the season of Lent. Tables will be set up in the back of the sanctuary. Worship will begin with a hymn and a prayer. Then worshippers will serve themselves whatever delicious breakfast foods have been prepared for that morning. As they eat the scriptures will be read. There won't be so much of a sermon as an interactive reflection on the gospel reading. The service will wrap up with prayers and song. When there is communion it will be incorporated right into the meal.

Worship (Cont.)



Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is becoming an annual tradition in our congregation's Lenten journey. If you have trouble giving something up for Lent, this will be your easiest discipline ever! There is a collection box in the Gathering Area for you to put your **dryer lint, used dryer sheets, old crayons and stubs of candles**. This worthless stuff (and somewhat gross) will be melted together and burnt on the fire at the sunrise service on Easter. This Lent give up your most worthless stuff so that God can turn it into heat and light! Please be sure to put your things in the collection box by no later than the Maundy Thursday service on April 14.



Prayers at 10:30 Worship During Lent

We'll be changing the way we do the "Prayer of the Church" at the 10:30 service during Lent. Instead of having a few petitions read by members of the congregation we'll invite everyone to write a petition or two on a slip of paper. We'll set our portable fire pit just outside the side door of the sanctuary. During the prayer time you'll be invited to take your prayer to the fire and throw it in. This is rooted in Psalm 141 which reads, "Let my prayer rise up like incense before you."

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 (call or text), or sign up using the sign up sheet posted in the gathering area. 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 Nancy Shuler for teaching the first communion class. And thank you to Ivan and Nancy for the special coffee hour for the first communion kids on March 20.
- Thank you to everyone who has been providing items for coffee hour.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with plowing snow and shoveling in March.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for organizing the special collection of items of Ukraine. Also thank you to everyone who gave.
- Thank you to everyone who made a special donation to Food for the Poor.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton and Gary Boisseau for cooking at the Fat Tuesday pancake supper. And thank you to Dianne Millard and Julie Steward for decorating and doing the set up work.
- Thank you to everyone who served as a worship assistant in March.
- Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for the new plants at the altar.



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.
- The family and friends of Fran Mann, Babette Huber's mother, as they mourn her death.
- Gary Boisseau Sr., father of our own Gary Boisseau as he has developed several health conditions and his memory is slipping.
- Alicia Kibitlewski, friend of the Boisseaus who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is awaiting treatment options.
- Alex Eckert, 6 year old friend of the Boisseaus who has been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease.

Bed Race

2022



July 30, 2022

More to follow...

Nuts and Bolts



Church Playground

Can & Bottle Collection Continues

We continue collecting deposit cans and bottles for replacing the playground. We have collected \$1800 so far and would like to collect at least \$1200 more by next summer. The rest of the funding for the playground will come from other sources. The collection bin is in the old entrance to the building.

March Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on March 21st. Major items on the agenda were:

- Approving Joey Centola for membership.
- Review of COVID operating practices.
- Property committee projects and spring clean up.
- Worship and Music projects, especially the updates sound and video system.

Voting Representatives Needed

Our congregation gets three votes at all synod assemblies and at the conference assemblies. One of those votes is for our pastor and two are for laypeople. If you're interested in representing us at the conference and synod level please talk to Gary Wood or Pastor Jon. Pete Gregory and Linda Flood have been our most recent representatives. They are also a great source of information. The spring conference assembly will take place by Zoom on Saturday, April 2nd starting at 9:00am. Synod assembly is June 5-6 in Rochester.

Fun



Pancake Breakfast

End Lent the same way it began – with pancakes!
Indulging in the annual Easter pancake breakfast! Just

like on Fat Tuesday we'll have pancakes, sausage, and all sorts of rich toppings including whipped cream, pie fillings and syrup. We'll start serving at 9:00 and go until about 10:00.



Easter Flower Orders

Help beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday by ordering a potted flower. After worship take it home to beautify your home. The flower types available are: tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and lilies. Cost is \$8.00 per plant. Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. The deadline to order is Palm Sunday. If you pay by check please make it out to St. John's.



March Bible Trivia Answers

1. What miracle does Jesus perform in the town of Nain?
Answer: Raises a widow's son. (Luke 7:11)
2. In every gospel there is a story of a woman anointing Jesus. What part of him does she anoint in Luke's gospel?
Answer: His feet. (Luke 7:38)
3. In the parable of the sower what happens to the seed that falls on the path?
Answer: The devil snatches it away. (Luke 8:12)
4. Where does Jesus say people put a lamp that is lit?
Answer: On a lampstand. (Luke 8:16)

April Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What holiday season was it that caused Jesus to go to Jerusalem with his disciples?
2. On what hill/mount did Jesus go to pray after his last supper with the disciples?
3. What disciple handed Jesus over to the authorities?
4. Two of the women who went to the tomb on Easter had the same first name. What was it?

The UPDATE

Our Hosting Week with Family Promise of Ontario County

Is coming up!

Soon we will be able to engage face to face with our guests. As COVID begins to subside from our area and once it's deemed safe. Can you:

- ★ Reset an apartment, help manage donations, grocery shop for our families or help in the office?
- ★ Donate gift cards for our families to buy groceries?
- ★ Inventory and deliver books as part of our partnership with the Budding Readers program?
- ★ Inventory, organize, and deliver donated toys at the Day Center?

**So many ways to help!
Get creative and reach out!**

Contact David Simmons at fpocCEM@fpocny.org to learn more.



STORAGE SPACE FOR FURNITURE

**DOES YOUR CONGREGATION HAVE
SOME EXTRA SPACE? IF SO,
PLEASE LET US KNOW**

Family Promise Giving Day

April 28, 2022

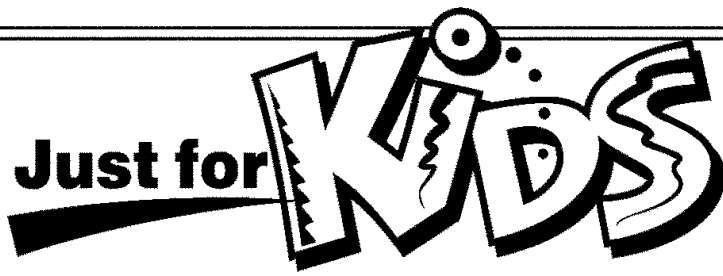
**Have you considered a
Facebook Birthday
Fundraiser?**

**Family Promise of Ontario
County can be your
charitable organization!**



APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 3-8 Cello Lessons	2 9:00 Spring Conference Assembly
3 <u>5th Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Service of the Word (Breakfast Church) 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	4 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 3-6 Music Lessons 7 Community Chorus	6 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	7 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	8 3-8 Cello Lessons	9
10 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 8:30 Holy Communion (Breakfast Church) 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Easter Egg Hunt	11 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 3-6 Music Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7:00 Community Chorus	13 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	14 <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 6:00 Holy Communion 6:30-7:30 Cub Scout Pack 67	15 <u>Good Friday</u> 3-8 Cello Lessons 7:00 Worship	16
17 <u>Easter</u> 6:00 Sunrise Holy Communion 9:00 Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Holy Communion	18 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	19 3-6 Music Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 6-8 Pipe Band	20 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	21 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	22 3-8 Cello Lessons	23
24 <u>2nd Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	25 <u>Mark, Evangelist</u> 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	26 3-6 Music Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	27 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	28 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 6:30-7:30 Cub Scout Pack 67	29 3-8 Cello Lessons	30



All of these different people worship and serve God in different ways! Find words in the puzzle that tell some of these ways. Circle them. Write them on the lines below.

S _ _ _ _ **P** _ _ _ _ **P** _ _ _
G _ _ _ **T** _ _ _ **D** _ _ _ _
L _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
L _ _ _ **S** _ _ _

“ _____ ”



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.*

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

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Address Service Requested

April Newsletter

Maundy Thursday – April 14

Good Friday – April 15

Easter - April 17