

# On Eagle's Wings

## St. John's Monthly Newsletter – April 2023

### Pastor's Paragraphs

Our synod bishop, Rev. Dr. Lee Miller, traveled to the Holy Land in January. He went at the invitation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. A couple pastors are currently serving there who used to be in New York. You probably remember me saying in the past that when it comes to Israeli/Palestinian conflict the Lutheran church is solidly on the side of the Palestinians. Christians make up less than 2% of the population in Palestine. Only a fraction of that 2% is Lutheran. One could argue that with such a small population being Lutheran they are hardly worth noting. Indeed there are only six Lutheran congregations in the area.

Yet get this. Four of those six congregations run schools. They are among the best in the region. Also, Augusta Victoria Lutheran Hospital is the premier healthcare provider in the area. Fully 60% of the population of Palestine relies on that hospital. So, even though Lutherans make up a insignificant part of the population, we have an outsized importance. The Palestinians love the Lutheran Church. The government of Israel, however,... that's a different story.

Hang on to that thought as we look at the ministry of Jesus. Jesus brought healing and restoration to life everywhere he went. He advocated for the poor and helpless. He sought to empower people who had no power. Jesus' ministry was built upon loving all people and seeing their value. We'd expect such a person to be loved by all. But you know the story well as we are coming into Holy Week. When Jesus is in the presence of the rich and powerful of his day it doesn't take them long to decide to do away with him!

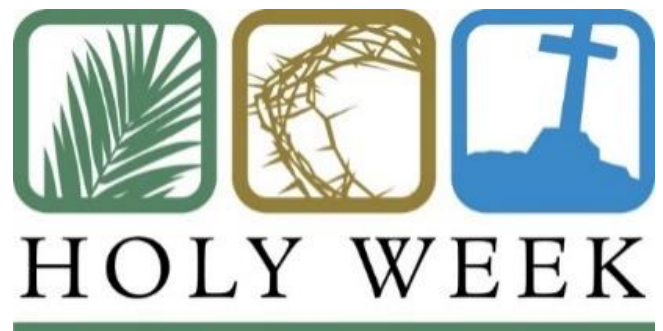
The current leaders of the Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land walk a very fine line. The Israeli government doesn't like them and is looking for any excuse to declare the Lutheran Church a terrorist organization. Yes, you read that correctly. The Lutheran Church there runs the daily risk of being classified as a terrorist organization. They have no weapons. They do not plan destructive acts. They intend to help and not hurt. If they say nothing about the way they are being persecuted then they are not heard. If they speak up too loudly or act too publicly they will

be so labeled. The schools would have to close and so would the hospital.

During the bishop's visit, he and other Lutheran leaders from the United States were kept at a low profile. Their movements were limited. Sometimes they even met with Christians in unmarked buildings down side allies for safety sake.

As we approach Easter I encourage you to keep the Christians in Palestine in your prayers. Realize that the dynamics of our Lord Jesus are still being played out in our own time. Those who seek to teach, to heal, and to worship may still end up being labeled terrorists. For even teaching healing and worshipping can be a threat to those in power.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon



### Holy Week Schedule at a Glance

April 2 – Palm Sunday, procession with palms at both services, breaking ground on the new playground, children's Easter egg hunt

April 6 – Maundy Thursday, seder meal with Holy Communion

April 7 – Good Friday, 7:00 Worship

April 9 – Easter

6:00 Sunrise service of Holy Communion

9:00 Pancake Breakfast

10:30 Holy Communion

## April Worship Assistants

	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Greeters & Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Gary Wood	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Owen Young	Creed White	Thomas Bullwinkle	Owen Young	Creed White
Altar Care (10:30)	Linda Thompson	Linda Thompson	Linda Thompson		
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau	Rob Stroup	Adele Garvey		
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel		Mary and Greg Zuege	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern	Michele Myers and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour		No coffee hour			



### Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

April 2 (Palm Sunday) – Matthew 26:1-16  
 April 6 (Maundy Thursday) – Matthew 26:17-75  
 April 7 (Good Friday) – Matthew 27  
 April 9 (Easter) – Matthew 28:1-10  
 April 16 – Matthew 28:11-15  
 April 23 – Matthew 28:16-20  
 April 30 – Matthew 5:1-16

### 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.

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)  
 Meeting ID: 872 6672 5691  
 Passcode: 551860

### Easter Egg Hunt Palm Sunday after the 10:30 Worship Service

This year's egg hunt will again have parts for both little kids and for middle and high school age youth. The little kids' hunt will be easy. The older youth will have to bring their clue solving abilities to discover the eggs well hidden throughout the church property.



### 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, 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.



### 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!



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.
- David Storch as he lives in a memory care facility.
- Rev. Jennifer Phelps, former member of St. John's, as she slowly recovers from neck and back injuries.
- Sterling Smith, relative of Becky Nohe, who has bladder cancer.
- Kelly Carlson, friend of the CiPollinas, whose liver function is failing.
- Lane Boughton, friend of Babette Huber, who is recovering from quadruple bypass surgery.



- Thank you to everyone who helped with snowplowing in March.
- Thank you to everyone who brought soup or bread for the Lenten suppers.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton for leading the Lenten worship service when Pastor Jon had to be away.
- Thank you to Karen Spawton for playing piano when Will was away on vacation.
- Thank you to Julie Stewart for organizing the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. Thank you to Jim Spawton and Gary Boisseau for making pancakes and sausage. Thank you also to everyone who helped with decorating, set up, and tear down.



### 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.

### 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.)



### New Playground Groundbreaking April 2

The new playground will arrive in late April. To celebrate this long-anticipated project we will have a ground breaking ceremony on April 2 as part of the annual Easter Egg Hunt. That takes place shortly after the 10:30 worship service.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to add the accessories to the playground!

Thank you also everyone who has donated cans and bottles. The PLAYGROUND CANS AND BOTTLES FUND is up to \$2696!! This means 53,920 cans and bottles have been donated.

### Financial Update as of February

YTD Income	\$32,175.77
YTD Expenses	\$32,694.63
Difference	(\$518.85)





**April 6, 6pm  
Maundy Thursday  
Seder Meal  
A Salvation History**

Join us for a very special Seder Meal for Maundy Thursday. Those gathered will engage in the rituals associated with the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples, the traditional foods and the meanings behind them will be presented, and an ancient song of deliverance will be sung. The meal will end with Holy Communion, pointing to the Lamb who has slain for us on the cross. (We will be substituting chicken for the traditional lamb dish.)



**April 7, 7pm  
Good Friday  
Day of Victory Over Sin**

Join us for a special Good Friday service. We will read from Matthew's gospel what happens to Jesus on Good Friday. In place of a sermon we'll hear the story "Ragman" by Walt Wangerin Jr. This service will be done by candlelight in darkness.



**March Bible Trivia Answers**

1. How many times does Jesus tell Peter he should forgive? Answer: seventy-seven times, or seven-times-seventy (Matthew 18:22)
2. What does Jesus tell the rich young man he must do for eternal life? Answer: Sell his possessions and give the money to the poor. (Matthew 19:21)
3. What is the pay for all the workers in the Parable of the Vineyard? Answer: The usual daily wage, one denarius (Matthew 20:9-15)
4. Who asks for James and John to sit at Jesus' left and right side in glory? Answer: Their mother (Matthew 20:20)

**April Bible Trivia Questions**

Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings we will use in worship during April.

1. What disciples sold Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver?
2. Where does Jesus go with the disciples after the Last Supper? (Where does his arrest take place?)
3. How many angels are at the tomb at the resurrection?
4. According to Matthew two women first went to the tomb on Easter morning. They both had the same first name. What was it?



**Wrong.. wrong, and WRONG**

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> <u>Palm Sunday</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:30 Playground groundbreaking, Easter Egg Hunt	<b>3</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>4</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>5</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>6</b> <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Seder Meal with Communion	<b>7</b> <u>Good Friday</u> 7:00 Worship	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <u>Easter</u> 6:00 Sunrise Holy Communion 9:00 Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>10</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	<b>11</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>12</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>13</b> 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	<b>14</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons LCLC Work Weekend	<b>15</b> LCLC Work Weekend
<b>16</b> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>17</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>18</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>19</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>20</b> 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	<b>21</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>22</b> 9-11 Spring Conference Assembly (at St. Paul's, Dansville)
<b>23</b> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>24</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>25</b> <u>Mark, Evangelist</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	<b>26</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>27</b> 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	<b>28</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word						



# **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**