

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – April 2026

## Pastor's Paragraphs

As this newsletter goes out we are just before Holy Week. You therefore expect me to write something about Jesus' death and resurrection. Or you expect me to highlight something going on in church that has to do with these holy days. You do not expect me to write something about Christmas, or about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, or Halloween. Any of those topics would be out touch with what we are living right now.

We live by many unconscious assumptions. We expect things to go a certain way. When they do we don't give it any thought. It is when things are drastically out of sync with our unconscious assumptions that we jarred into a sense of alertness.

One of the assumptions many Americans have lived by for the last several generations is that we are in a Christian society. While some may challenge that claim, it is effectively true. The morality of the Protestant churches was generally in sync with society's dynamics. The same morals and values appeared to prevail. But things began to diverge several decades ago. At this point, the moral foundations of Christianity are about as out of place in our culture as a 4<sup>th</sup> of July message would be at Easter.

Perhaps this point is too obvious to make, but it bears mention: We should not look at our culture and think it needs just a few tweaks to put it back on a path that we like. It seems that many Christians think that's all that's needed. Some even day that culture is driving the church in the correct direction. To the contrary, we need to stand separate from our culture. Notice I did not say we needed to *oppose* our culture. That would create an us-vs.-them dynamic. That's neither helpful nor correct. I said that we need to stand separate from culture.

Our culture has developed a value structure based upon consumption. Our human brains like new things, flashy things, and novel things. But giving our brains too much of what they want is counter-productive. That's the equivalent of a fast food diet for the brain. Just like our bodies need lots of vegetables, so too our brains need healthy consumption. That consumption is often difficult, dull, and maybe even painful. But so it is.

When we stand separate from culture we do not buy into culture's lifestyle, which promises happiness but just leads to emptiness. Our faith is not about

condemning culture. It is about witnessing God's truth within systems that think it ridiculous. So while I will not write about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Easter, realize that your life as a Christian will probably appear just as out of place. But awkward as it may feel, it is God keeping you on the path to wholeness and salvation.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon



## HOLY WEEK

### Holy Week Schedule at a Glance

March 29 – Palm Sunday, procession with palms at 10:30, Easter egg hunt  
April 2 – Maundy Thursday, covered dish meal with Holy Communion, 6pm  
April 3 – Good Friday, Noon Tenebrae Worship at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian; 7:00 Worship at St. John's  
April 20 – Easter  
6:00 Sunrise service of Holy Communion  
9:00 Easter Brunch  
10:30 Holy Communion

### Holy Week Daily Bible Readings

We've been reading through Matthew's gospel this year in worship. We saw his ministry develop. We've read his great sermons and teachings. We've followed him on his journey to Jerusalem. Now follow Jesus each day in Holy Week as things happen:

Monday: Matthew 21:12-18  
Tuesday: Matthew 21:19 – 26:5  
Wednesday: Matthew 26:6-16  
Thursday: Matthew 26:17-75  
Friday: Matthew 27:1-61  
Saturday: Matthew 27:62-66  
Sunday: Matthew 28

## April Worship Assistants

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Greeters & Ushers	Helen Crown	Linda Flood	Janice Lockwood	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Allyn Itterly		Allyn Itterly	
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau		Allyn Itterly	
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel	Janice Lockwood & Burdie Gillern	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Easter – Candy Eggs			The Stuarts



### Worship Readings for April

April begins during Holy Week. We'll read the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter from Matthew on each of those days. Then later in the month we'll return to the events of Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week.

April 2 – (Maundy Thursday) Matthew 26:17-75

April 3 – (Good Friday) Matthew 27:1-66

April 5 – (Easter) Matthew 28:1-10

April 12 – Matthew 28:11-15

April 19 – Matthew 28:16-20

April 26 – Matthew 21:18-27



### 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 unlock the escape room boxes that hold the treasures.



### 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82790182949?pwd=kWc27H9b1VhTH4f1yIbb4ObrouDVtO.1>

Meeting ID: 827 9018 2949

Passcode: 131540

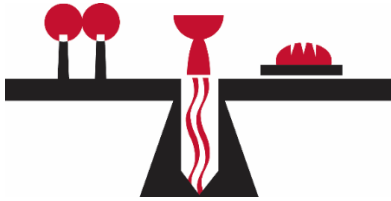
By phone:

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



### 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.



## Maundy Thursday Worship

Our Maundy Thursday worship service this year is an ecumenical one. We are hosting it, but members from Victor United Methodist Church and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church are also invited. We will have a simple meal of soup, salad, bread, and dessert. We will read the events of Maundy Thursday from Matthew's gospel. Then we will have communion. Our time will end with the removal of the banners and everything from the altar. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area if you plan to attend.



## Good Friday – April 3

Good Friday is arguably the most important holiday of the year. You are invited to participate in two different worship services.

Noon – Ecumenical Tenebrae service at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church. This worship service has been created by the Victor Ministerium and Pastor Jon is helping to lead it.

7:00 – Worship at St. John's. We'll read the Good Friday texts from Matthew's gospel and have the "solemn reproaches" style of prayers. The service will be by candlelight.



## Easter Sunday

**6:00 Sunrise Worship:** lint and wax fire, affirmation of baptism, redressing the altar, holy communion

**9:00 Easter Brunch:** fruit, quiches, pancakes, eggs

**10:30 Holy Communion**



## Easter Brunch

The annual Easter pancake breakfast is getting an upgrade this year. We're having fresh fruit, multiple quiches, eggs, and yes – pancakes with toppings. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.



## Give Up Lint for Lent

If you have saved your dryer lint during the Lenten season, and if you have collected old crayons and candles, please drop them off at the collection box in the Gathering Area by the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 2. The wax and lint will be melted together on Good Friday.



- Thank you to the snow plow teams for clearing the sidewalks and parking lot in February and March.
- Thank you to everyone who provided food for the 8:30 breakfast church worship services in Lent.
- Thankyou to everyone who brought soup, bread, or dessert to the mid-week Lenten services.
- Thank you to Karen Spawton for playing piano for the mid-week Lenten services.

## Prayer Requests

- Alex Clark, friend of the Shulers. He is a 38 year old father who was recently diagnosed with stomach and intestinal cancer.
- Paul Huber as he receives additional treatments to help with bone strength.
- Marilyn Bair who is weak and needs regular care.
- Patty Anderson, niece of Bruce Stevenson, who has congestive heart failure, declining kidney function, and diabetes.
- Pat Eddy, neighbor of the Zueges, who is on hospice care.
- Sally Mansfield, as she has moved into a nursing home.

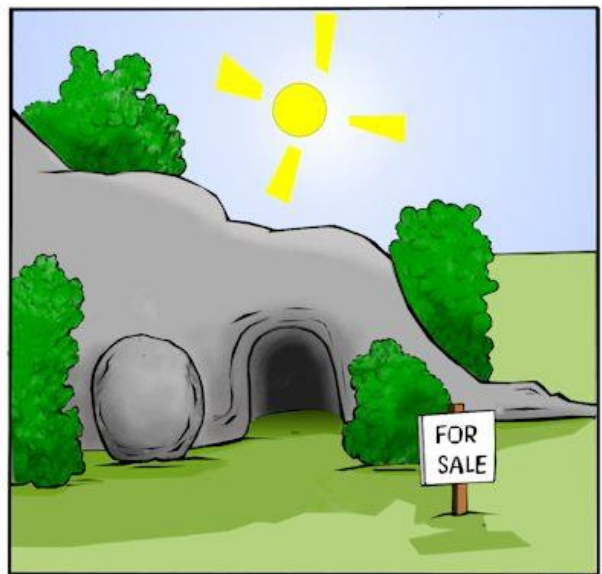
## Finances (through 2/28/26)

YTD Income \$23,747

YTD Expenses \$31,702

Difference \$(7,995)

Given our sizeable deficit to date, please keep up on your financial giving!



**FOR SALE** - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.



## March Council Highlights

Church council held a planning retreat on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Major items on the agenda were:

- Church finances and a drop in income thus far in 2026
- Review of the church website
- Walk-through and assessment of the building and grounds
- Plans for the Sunday school wing and cleaning out accumulated clutter
- Amendments to the church constitution

## Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> immediately following the 10:30 worship service.

This is to approve a few amendments to the church constitution. They are:

- the allowance of online participants at congregational meetings
- changing the church council size from nine to six
- changing the maximum amount the council is allowed to depart from budgeted expenditures from a set amount (currently \$3000) to a percentage of the anticipated receipts (3% is the amount proposed).

Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions.

## March Bible Trivia Answers

1. Which three disciples witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus? Answer: Peter, James, and John (Matthew 17:1)
2. In the parable of the lost sheep how many sheep does the owner leave behind when he goes in search of the lost one? Answer: 99 (Matthew 18:12)
3. What happens to the fig tree that Jesus curses? Answer: it immediately withers (Matthew 21:19)
4. The Sadducees raised a theoretical scenario about a woman who is required to marry her husband's brother after he dies. But that brother dies too and she has to marry the next. How many brothers does she end up being married to? Answer: 7 (Matthew

## April Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. How many times does Peter deny that he knows Jesus?
2. Which disciple hands Jesus over to the authorities?
3. Where is Jesus when he is arrested?
4. What was the name of the person Pontus Pilate offered to release instead of Jesus?

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>2</b> <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church  10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  6:00 Ecumenical Dinner Church	<b>3</b> <u>Good Friday</u>  12:00 Ecumenical Tenebrae Service at 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian  2-7 Cello Lessons 3:00 Worship at Lyons Church 7:00 Worship at Victor Church	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <u>Easter</u> 6:00 Sunrise Holy Communion 9:00 Brunch 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>6</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>8</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>9</b> 10:00 Lyons Church Council 11:00 Bible study at Lyons Church  10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	<b>10</b>  2-7 Cello Lessons	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>13</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>15</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>16</b> 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church  10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	<b>17</b>  2-7 Cello Lessons	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>20</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>22</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church  10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	<b>24</b>  2-7 Cello Lessons	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>27</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	<b>29</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>30</b> 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church  10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool		



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

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

888 County Rd. 9

Victor, NY 14564

The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

[www.stjohnsvictor.com](http://www.stjohnsvictor.com)

*Address Service Requested*

### **April Newsletter**

2 Maundy Thursday

3 Good Friday

5 Easter