

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – December 2020

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

Happy Advent... maybe?

This is certainly the strangest of holiday seasons. It feels like we're getting ready for our culture's annual Christmas celebration but not the right way. This is a time of traditions, but adaptation is this year's norm. It begs the questions of what is essential and what is dependable?

This Advent we are going to look at three things that we can count on – three things that endure; are eternal actually. These three things are not objects. No object will last forever. These are the three things that show up over and over again in the Bible. St. Paul liked to put them together as a trio. They are the foundation of our lives and how we exist. They are faith, hope, and love.

There are four weeks in Advent. We will look at each in turn for the first three Sundays. We'll have the children's Christmas program on the fourth.

Faith, hope, and love can sound like soft and cuddly concepts, things that the nice and the immature live by. But this is a mistaken idea. Each is capable, powerful, and even ferocious. In 1 Corinthians 13 St. Paul goes so far as to say that love is the most powerful force in the universe. (If you're a fan of the Harry Potter books you may have noticed that author J.K. Rowling brings that up over and over again in the fight against evil.) Faith, hope, and love are not to be trivialized or taken lightly. These are forces God invites us to use to great effect. They will keep you strong and whole. By living by them you will never feel ashamed. There is also no mistake you can make, nor evil that you can do, that can overcome these forces. They are. They always have been. They always will be.

When everything seems wrong this Advent we turn to those things which will always be right: faith, hope, and love. I pray that you always find strength in them, and I "hope" I can preach in a way that does justice to their power.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school continues even though we aren't having in-person worship. Here's the plan:

- One Facebook Messenger call for all kids at 10 am
- Teacher for that week will read the associated bible verse for the lesson.
- Discuss the verse briefly.
- Ask kids some questions to spark some discussion
- Close the 30 minute maximum call with the prayer for the week.
- Each child will then work on the associated worksheet for that week on their own off of the call.

Worksheets for each child have been gathered through Christmas and put in envelopes. Parents are invited to pick them up at church. Please be in touch with Jen White if you have any questions.

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school class continues with the video course *Theology of the Augsburg Confession* from 1517.org and taught by Dr. Scott Keith. There is no longer an in-person option but it is continuing online. We use the same Zoom meeting used for worship at 9:30. Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is switching to online rather than in-person. We will begin using Facebook Messenger calls starting on November 29. Parents, you should be receiving more information about this by email. Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions.

Men's Breakfast Women's Bible Study

The weekly men's and women's Bible studies are continuing in person; at least for the time being. If the status of Ontario County changes with regard to the pandemic these groups may be switched to online.

Worship

Sunday Worship

We have discontinued the 8:30 worship service because of the pandemic and the 10:30 service has returned to online only. The church council is going to review our worship situation on a month by month basis.

If you have a computer and internet connection:

The link to the service is emailed out. For security reasons it is no longer directly available on the website.

If you cannot connect 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



Christmas Eve Worship

Lessons and Carols

7:00pm by Zoom



December Bible Readings for Worship

Advent 1, Nov. 29 – Faith: Habakkuk 2:2-5, Romans 3:21-27

Advent 2, Dec. 6 – Hope: Romans 8:18-30

Advent 3, Dec. 13 – Love: 1 Corinthians 13

Advent 4, Dec 20 – Children's Christmas Program

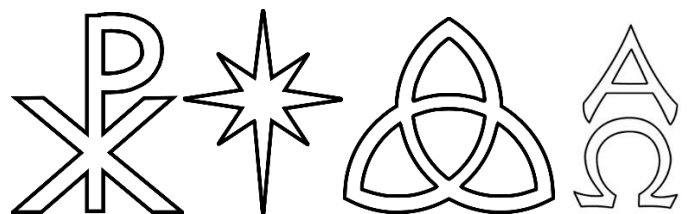
St. John, Evangelist, Dec. 27 – John 21:20-25



Advent Wreath Travels

The Advent wreath marks our progress through the season of Advent, with an additional candle being lit each Sunday. Since we cannot worship in-person this Advent, we are creating an Advent wreath that will travel from household to household. This will be similar to earlier in the year when we had the altar candles touring from house to house. If you or your family would like to host the wreath please be in touch with Pastor Jon.

At the beginning of each worship service during Advent you are encouraged to light the appropriate candles of your own Advent wreath. If you do not have one please consider getting one, or making one. Even a collection of four candles will suffice. Blue candles can be hard to find so feel free to substitute whatever colors you have.



Church Christmas Tree

With no in-person worship services this Advent and Christmas season there may seem to be very little point in setting up a Christmas tree at church. However, let's still use it as a symbol of community. At the end of this newsletter is a collection of chrismons – Christian symbols used to decorate a tree. Please select one and print it out (on heavy paper or cardstock if possible). You may cut it out or leave it uncut. Decorate it to your liking and put your name(s) on it. Then return it to church. We'll place them on the tree. During the Christmas Eve service we'll give some camera time to the decorations on the tree. Thank you!

Service

Community Outreach Committee

Thanks to everyone that brought in chicken broth/stuffing mix, or make a monetary donation for the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard Thanksgiving baskets.

Mitten Tree

We will have a Christmas tree in the gathering area for donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats of all sizes. These items will be donated to the Victim Resource Center. The deadline is December 20th.

2021 Stewardship Drive

The 2021 stewardship drive is underway! You should be getting your materials in the mail in the next couple days. Thank you for your support in 2020 and please prayerfully consider how you will contribute to our ministry in 2021.



- Thank you to everyone who helped mow the church lawn in October.
- Thank you to Bruce Stevenson and John CiPollina for making various repairs around the building.
- Thank you to Bill & Katy Stimmel, Dave Bullwinkle, and Rob Stroup for putting the 2021 stewardship campaign together.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for helping organize the Veterans' Day blood drive. Thank you also to everyone who donated!
- Thank you to Mike Ross for his working preparing the "new" snow plow truck for this year.
- Thank you to Jen White and all the Sunday school teachers for easily moving classes to being online.
- Thank you to Bettina Kalish for counting and depositing the offerings for the last several months. And thank you to Beth Perdan for offering to do it in the future.



- 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. He is doing well and is responding to the treatments
- Linda Ellis whose cancer issues have grown seriously worse in the last month.

- Bob Stroup, Rob Stroup's dad, who has been suffering from dementia and other health problems.
- Knut Halvorson, who is living in Atria Nursing Home in Penfield.
- Eleanor Spawton, Jim Spawton's mother, who has a weakening heart valve.
- The family and friends of Jeff Rogers, friend of Scott Flood, as they mourn his death.

Snow Removal Volunteers

We are looking for people to help with snow removal at church this winter season. We work in teams; if you're not comfortable driving an easy-to-operate small plow truck, we also need snowblower operators, shovelers, and salters. If you can assist, please contact Tom Urbanic at turbanic@rochester.rr.com or 585-489-5965.

Nuts and Bolts

November Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on - November 16th. Topics and decisions were:

- various committee reports
- returning to online worship
- 2021 stewardship drive

Fun



November Bible Trivia Questions.

1. Paul says he planted, Apollos watered, but who gave the growth? Answer: God (1 Corinthians 3:6)
2. Paul says we are God's temple and what dwells in us? Answer: Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)
3. Paul says that in worship all things should be done for what? Answer: building up (1 Corinthians 14:26)
4. 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 was probably not written by Paul. According to that passage what should a woman do if she will not veil her hair? Answer: cut or shave off her hair (1 Corinthians 11:6)

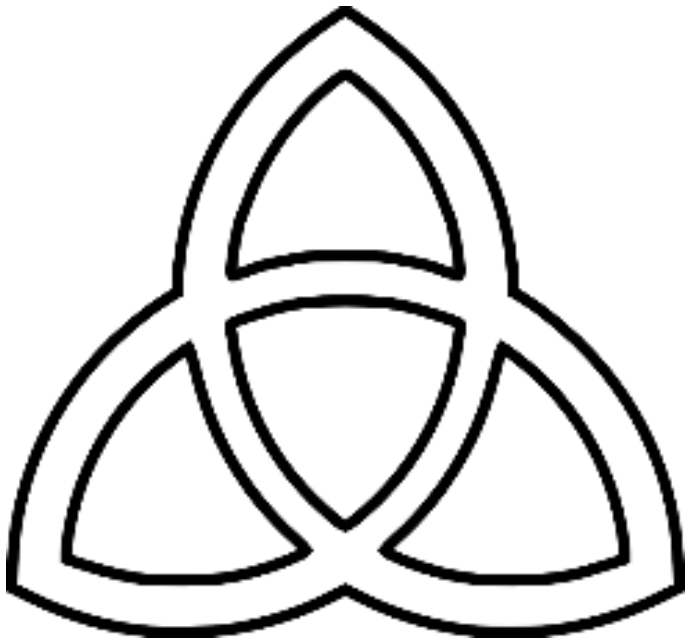
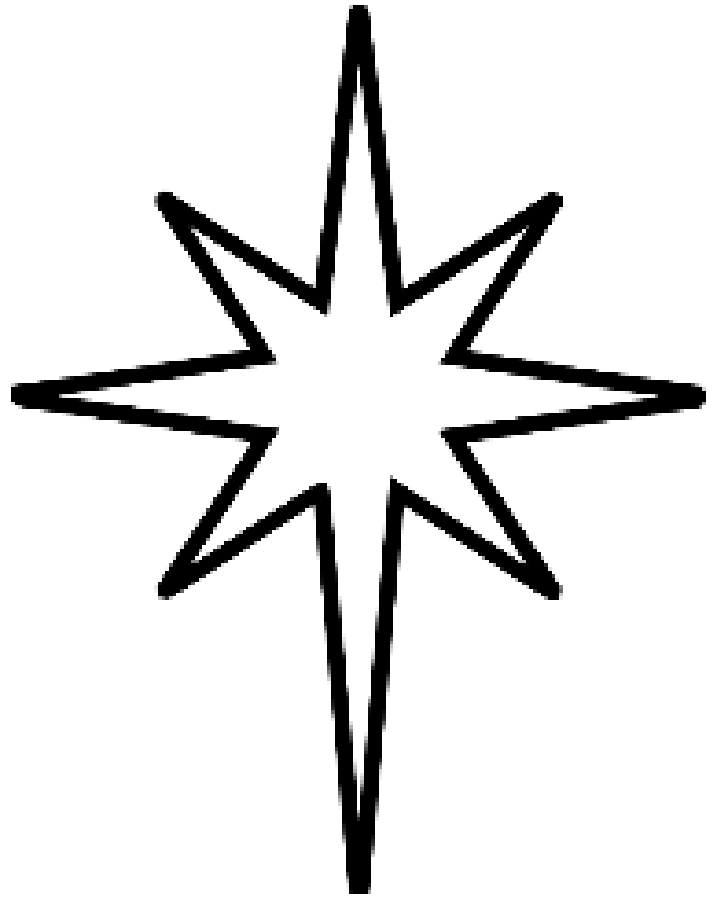
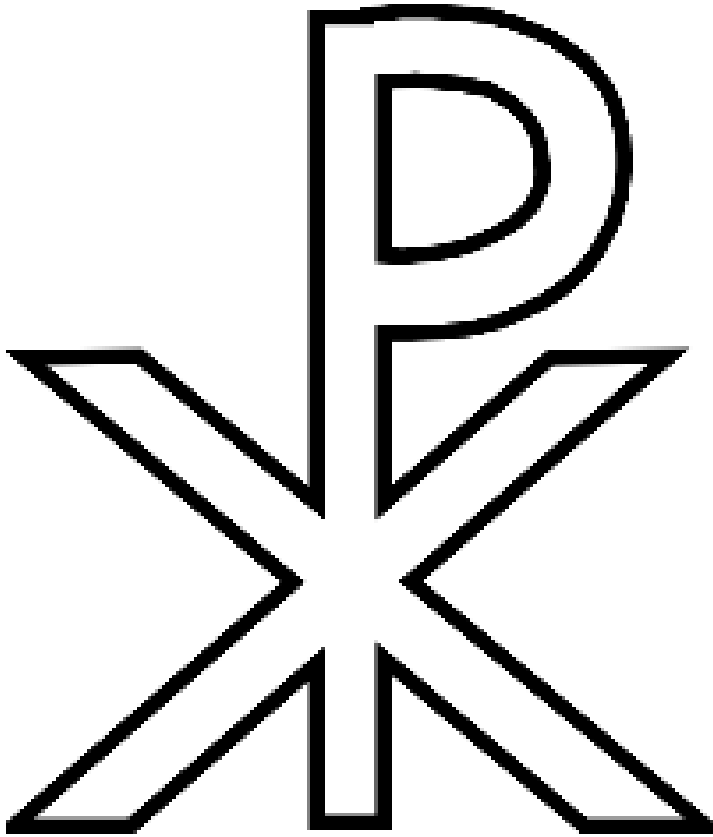
December Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All of the answers may be found in the readings appointed for Sunday worship in December.

1. Complete this famous verse from Romans, "since all have sinned and fall..."
2. Complete this famous verse from Romans, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time..."
3. Of faith, hope, and love which is the greatest?
4. The "world itself" could not contain all the what?

Chrismons for the Church Tree

(See the article earlier. If you are receiving a paper copy of the newsletter and you'd like a Chrismon that is larger or on cardstock please be in touch with Pastor Jon)



DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00-9:00 Voting 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	2 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	3 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Worship and Music Committee (Zoom)	4 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons	5
6 <u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)	7 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	9 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	10 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	11 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons	12
13 <u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)	14 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Property Committee	16 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	17 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	18 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons	19 Victor Farmington Food Cupboard Christmas Food Distribution
20 <u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> 10:30 Sunday School Program (Online)	21 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	22 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 2:30-6:00 YMCA Child Care	23 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 2:30-6:00 YMCA	24 <u>The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve</u> 7:00 Worship	25 <u>The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Day</u>	26 <u>Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</u>
27 <u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u> <u>St. John, Evangelist</u> 10:30 Worship (Online)	28 <u>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</u>	29 <u>St. John, Evangelist</u>	30	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u>		



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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Address Service Requested

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