

# On Eagle's Wings



## St. John's Monthly Newsletter – December 2021

### Growth

#### Pastor's Paragraphs

Whenever I think of Mary the mother of Jesus the first image that comes into my mind is someone gentle, meek, and mild. When the angel Gabriel told Mary of the news of Jesus' conception she simply said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) We often think of Mary as a model of submission and obedience. But this misses a key thing of Mary's personality that is revealed only a few verses later.

In Luke 1:39 we read, "In those days Mary set out and went to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth." That may not seem all that interesting on the surface, but consider this. The journey described is at the very least 70 miles. That takes guts! Even in American today it wouldn't be wise for a young woman to travel by herself on foot for 70 miles. That's a several day journey.

She was more than just courageous (and maybe foolish). She also traveled alone. Women did not travel alone in those days! It would have been scandalous. A young woman would travel with either her father or her husband. Mary was more than just daring. She also completely ignored rules of social propriety.

I often imagine Mary being worried about what would happen when Joseph found out about her pregnancy. But if Mary's physical daring and complete disregard for social conventions are any indication, she may not have cared at all! She was going to boldly do what God called her to do. She would do it with strength and confidence and she didn't care one bit about the consequences.

Mary's song, often called *The Magnificat*, is further indication of her a rebellious spirit. Our minds have been conditioned to think sweet thoughts when we hear it. You'll remember it begins, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has looked with favor upon the lowliness of his servant..." But that is easily misunderstood. Read the whole thing with an open mind and you realize that it might just be the manifesto of a religious terrorist group. *The Magnificat* is not the words of someone sweet, meek, and mild.

We'll be reading of the visit of Mary to Elizabeth in worship on December 12. That passage includes *The Magnificat*. Come ready to hear about the feisty side of Jesus' mother!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

### Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school class is using the video series *Down and Out, Where Grace Takes Us*. You may join in the class at any time. It meets in the middle Sunday school room. If you would like to have it be shared over Zoom please let Pastor Jon know and something can be set up.

### Worship



### New Church Year – Luke's Gospel

The 2022 Church Year begins November 28. All next year we'll be reading from the Gospel According to St. Luke. We'll read the whole thing during worship, although we won't read it all in order. You'll find that Luke is a very skilled storyteller. His record of Jesus' ministry is easy to read and understand.

December 5 – Luke 1:26-38

December 12 - Luke 1:39-56

December 19 – Luke 1:57-80

December 24 – Luke 2:1-20 (Christmas Eve)

December 26 – Luke 2:21-40

## Worship (Cont.)

### Sanctuary Seating for Advent and Christmas

For the seasons of Advent and Christmas the seating in the sanctuary will be arranged in a U shape. The advent wreath will be placed in the center of the room where it will count down the Sundays to Christmas.



### Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 Candlelight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve worship will only be at 7:00 this year. We will not have an 11:00 service. The service will also be available by Zoom. The link is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83269368947?pwd=TnV2dmM1d2dISEY5aUs1UWRhTktlUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 6936 8947

Passcode: 712085

Dial 929 436 2866 US (New York)

### 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

## 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*

- Thank you to everyone who helped put the stewardship drive together: Rob Stroup, Bill & Katy Stimmel, Dave Bullwinkle, Gary Wood, and Pete Gregory.
- Thank you to everyone who helped at the property committee's fall cleanup day.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the reception time after Emmy Gelb's funeral.

### Community Outreach Committee

- Thank you to everyone that provided food or monetary donations to the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard Thanksgiving baskets.
- Thankyou to everyone that provided/brought in gift cards for Victor Schools needy families Christmas.
- There is a mitten tree in the Gathering Area for mittens, hats, and scarves. It will be there until December 19<sup>th</sup>. The items will be given to the Victim Resource Center in Newark.

### Community Dinners at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Ministering with Music

Hello,

I'm Karen Hansen and I coordinate playing of background music during the Free Community Dinners at the Presbyterian Church 70 E Main St Victor on 2nd, 3rd, 4th Saturdays every month. The dinners run 5:30pm - 7pm. If you, an adult or teen, would be willing to share your musical talents and bring joy to the dining guests for approximately 35-45 minutes please call, text or email me :

585.703.7421 / [Karenhansen7@hotmail.com](mailto:Karenhansen7@hotmail.com)

Kind regards and God Bless as you consider ministering to others.

## Service (Cont.)



- 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.
- Zack Anderson, fiancé of Marcia Zavacki's granddaughter who is in need of a liver transplant after his kidneys and liver began to fail.
- Judy VanDeVelde as she continues recovery from back injuries sustained from a fall.
- Marcia Zavacki who is recovering from a broken hip/leg.
- Sandra Smith, sister of Nancy Pape and Adele Garvey, as she is having a tough time with cancer treatment.
- Laura Wixom, sister of Babette Huber, who continues receiving treatment for a brain infection and numerous complications.
- Eleanor Bullwinkle, who had a foot amputated because of poor blood circulation.
- Jo Lane, friend of Linda Flood, who is in the hospital with COVID and various other health problems.
- Christopher Eppeira, son of Kathy & Peter Eppeira who will soon have surgery to remove a benign tumor behind his nose and eye.
- Connie Stevenson as she resumes cancer treatments for several months.
- Josh, friend of the Eppeiras who is in the hospital with COVID.

## Victor Farmington Food Cupboard News – from Lori Kay

Hello everyone!

Lots of news coming from the Food Cupboard this month! In September we fed: 633 adults, 353 children, and 172 seniors.

Our Thanksgiving distribution will be November 18<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas distribution will be December 18<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who would like this assistance should call the Food Cupboard by Halloween at 585-924-2720. For the Christmas distribution, we would like to give pouches of cookie mixes, any flavor or brand. We'll need at least 300, so if folks could pick those up when they are on sale the next 6 weeks that would be wonderful!

The Target registry has been updated to include the cookie pouches and some other items we need. Below is

the direct link or donors can go to Target.com, click on registry and enter Victor Farmington Food Cupboard.  
<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=4ff0f962-88e8-11eb-812d-78f21837ceb0&type=CHARITY&fbclid=IwAR1luJnDmTIWkTM2xECbljEiEYNYIxx49QzRAElKuj31ya4l6tcHxWgO4-k>

From October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> we are part of the Target Circle charity program. If anyone belongs to Target Circle (this is not the debit or credit card), you get votes each time you shop. You can use your votes to help us raise money this quarter and it doesn't cost the shopper anything!

November 4<sup>th</sup> is the Cobblestone Creek Charity Guild Holiday Boutique, 5:30 to 9:00 pm to benefit the Food Cupboard. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. Please contact a Guild member or [joieutter@gmail.com](mailto:joieutter@gmail.com) for tickets.

November 30<sup>th</sup> is #GivingTuesday. Most nonprofits participate in this and the Food Cupboard will be participating from November 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. More information will be coming out soon! Please save the date now!

Anyone who would like to help with deliveries this winter can contact Karen Guidarelli at the Food Cupboard. We are looking for two teams of two for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Some days we have no deliveries; some days we have 8, so we're looking to split those with volunteers if we can.

We're also looking for church cleaning teams for 2022. You would only need to sign up for two times per year since we have teams in once a month. You can choose a Tuesday (afternoon or night) or a weekend morning to come. Please contact me (924-5642) to pick a month for the first half of 2022.

One last note: We are currently allowing only fully vaccinated volunteers at the Food Cupboard until April 1<sup>st</sup>. If anyone is fully vaccinated and interested in volunteering, you can stop by the Food Cupboard MWF mornings or give us a call at the office number.

## Nuts and Bolts

### November Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Major items on the agenda were:

- 2022 stewardship drive
- reviewing pandemic operating procedures
- calling a special congregational meeting to approve funding for the raccoon infestation cleanup

### Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting will be held immediately after the 10:30 worship service on December 5. The purpose will be to approve funds to pay for clean up of the damage caused by the raccoon infestation.

### Weather Cancellations

If we need to cancel a worship service or event due to weather we will post it on the church's Facebook page and send it to the email list. Please contact Pastor Jon if you have any cancellation questions.



### Church Playground

#### Can & Bottle Collection Continues

We continue collecting deposit cans and bottles for replacing the playground. We have collected \$1300 so far and would like to collect at least \$1700 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.

### Finances

YTD Income	\$182,471.31
YTD Expenses	\$164,612.39
Difference	\$17,858.92

## Fun



### Gingerbread House Competition

Our 10<sup>th</sup> annual gingerbread house competition is scheduled for Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> at noon. The walls (graham crackers) and glue (frosting) will be provided. Each family is asked to bring candy for decorating. Let's see how creative we can be! The following Sunday the houses will be on display. The congregation can vote for their favorite.

Never built a gingerbread house? That's okay, half of the houses usually collapse before judging! Sign up in the Gathering Area.



### November Bible Trivia Answers

1. Daniel was thrown into a den of what for disobeying the king? Answer: Lions (Daniel 6)
2. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into a furnace because they would not do what? Answer: Worship a statue set up by the king (Daniel 3)
3. Toward what city did Daniel always pray? Answer: Jerusalem (Daniel 6)
4. In Daniel what angel is called the great prince and protector of the people? Answer: Michael (Daniel 12)

### December Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. Who does Luke dedicate his gospel to?
2. What two elderly people meet Joseph and Mary when they take Jesus to the temple after his birth?
3. What angel came to Mary to tell her of Jesus' conception?
4. Who was born first, John the Baptist or Jesus?

# DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>2</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	<b>3</b> Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, 1552  3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>4</b> John of Damascus, Theologian and Hymnwriter, c. 749
<b>5</b> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:30 Special Congregational Meeting 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	<b>6</b> Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, 342 2-6:30 Music Lessons  7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397  3-6 Music Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7 Community Chorus	<b>8</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>9</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  6:30-7:30 Cub Scout Pack 67	<b>10</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>11</b>   5-8 Monarch Homeschool Christmas Dinner
<b>12</b> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Gingerbread House Competition	<b>13</b> Lucy, martyr, 304  2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> John of the Cross, Renewer of the church, 1591  3-6 Music Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	<b>15</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>18</b>   All Day - Food Cupboard Christmas Box Distribution
<b>19</b> <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>20</b> Katharina von Bora Luther, renwer of the church, 1552  2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>21</b>  3-6 Music Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band	<b>22</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	<b>24</b> <u>Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve</u>  7:00 Candlelight Communion	<b>25</b> <u>Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day</u>
<b>26</b> <u>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</u> <u>Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	<b>27</b> <u>John, Apostle and Evangelist</u>	<b>28</b> <u>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</u>	<b>29</b>  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <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*

### **December Newsletter**

December 5 – Special Congregational Meeting

December 12 – Gingerbread House Competition

December 24 – 7pm Candlelight Worship