

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – December 2023

Pastor's Paragraphs

What does defiance look like to you? Perhaps angry teenagers breaking all their parents boundaries and rules. Perhaps it's a military movement against a totalitarian government. Perhaps it's refusing to do something you don't want to do.

I think defiance can also be a very quiet and subtle thing. The season of Advent is a defiant season. Advent is defiant when we put lights on our houses and decorate our lawns against the long dark nights. Advent is defiant when we bring a Christmas tree into our houses to defy all the lifeless cold of winter. Advent is defiant when people sing Christmas carols in the neighborhoods against the still silence of winter. Advent is defiant when we bake cookies, have parties, and go shopping; all of these things against the most prudent thing to do this time of year. The prudent thing would be to snuggle in, settle down, and hibernate the cold dark months away until the warmth and light of spring arrive again.

Our worship services in Advent this year will be all about defiance. The prophet Isaiah will be our guide for this journey of defiance. On December 3 we'll read from Isaiah 11 when God promises new life to a people who thought they were going to die out. On December 10 we'll read from Isaiah 40 and hear the cry to prepare the way of the Lord. It is spoken to people in captivity and without hope. December 17 will be our children's Christmas program. See the next column in this newsletter to learn about the defiant twists it will have. And then we'll end Advent the morning of December 24 where Isaiah 9 will proclaim new light to people who walked in darkness.

Yes, this Advent we'll remember that it is a defiant season. You don't have to be a troublemaker to be defiant. You just have to stand true to the light and life that God always promises.

Advent Choir

Do you like to sing? Join us for a short time after the 10:30 service each week to practice for our Advent Choir. Talk to Karen Spawton if you'd like to participate.



Children's Christmas Program

December 17, 10:30 Worship

This is called the "holiday season," but holidays occur throughout the year. Our children's Christmas program this year will be all about the year's holidays giving precedence to Jesus. In the same way the Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus we'll have the mythical creatures of many holidays bringing their own gifts. So, come to worship on December 17 and you'll meet this cast of characters:

Valentines Cupid
Punxsutawney Phil
Leprechaun
Jack Frost
The Tooth Fairy
Easter Bunny
Uncle Sam
Halloween Witch
and a representative from the Bills Mafia

What do they have to give Jesus?

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.

December Worship Assistants

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Greeters & Ushers	Helen Crown	Linda Flood	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Linda Thompson		Linda Thompson		Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood		Mary Zuege		Greg Zuege
Counters	Nancy Shuler	John and Linda Thompson	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern	Michele Myers & Helen Crown	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour					



Advent Worship Series

In Advent we'll be looking at the defiant texts of hope from Isaiah. Then on December 31 we'll begin a look at Mark's gospel, which we'll continue through Easter. Here are the Bible texts we'll use:

December 3 – Isaiah 11:1-9

December 10 – Isaiah 40:1-11

December 17 – Children's Christmas Program

December 24 – Isaiah 9:1-7

December 31 – Mark 1



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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88302960070?pwd=ODJJPQOU0L2lVdVVLc1FJZnZSZ2k3QT09>

Meeting ID: 883 0296 0070

Passcode: 612837

• +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 Candlelight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We are keeping our normal Sunday morning worship schedule of 8:30 and 10:30. Then we'll have a candlelight communion service at 7pm. Please note that the evening service will be totally different from the morning services. The service will also be available by Zoom.

The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82360792880?pwd=eUhIQXNPQVR0ZlQveGk1TUthNVVldz09>

Meeting ID: 823 6079 2880

Passcode: 944356

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school is viewing the Netflix series *The Good Place* in November. It's lighthearted and funny but still a serious look at ethics and theology. It is not a formal class time, even though the series will inspire discussion. Feel free to just step in at any time.



2024 Stewardship Drive

Thank you for returning your 2024 financial pledge and time and talent sheets. If you have not yet done so please put them in the offering plate on Sunday or Dave Bullwinkle's mailbox. They help us make plans for the year ahead.

Communion Cards

Please remember to fill out a communion record card if you have not done so this year. Cards are available on the usher's stand. All churches in the synod are being advised to be able to verify their voting roles. Voting members are those who in the last year: are confirmed, received communion, and given an offering recorded by the financial secretary.

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.



Gingerbread House Competition

Our 12th annual gingerbread house competition is scheduled for Sunday December 10th 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.



Prayer Requests

- 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.
- Laurie Tallie, sister of Judy VanDevelde, who is recovering from lung surgery as part of cancer treatment.

Eclipse Party

The long anticipated total solar eclipse takes place on the afternoon of April 8, 2024. We're planning a mystery lunch prior to the eclipse. You can then view the eclipse from the church property. You are welcome to invite friends and family. More information will follow.

Hat and Mitten Tree

The mitten tree will be in the gathering area until Dec. 17th. The tree is to collect new hats, scarves and gloves/mittens, which will be given to needy people in the area.

Family Promise Gifts

Family Promise is arranging for a number of families in the program to receive gifts for Christmas. A list of this needed/wanted is in the Gathering Area. If you are able to help please take a look and see what you can provide. Gifts are to be wrapped and at church by December 10. Please see Mary Zuege for more information. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this.

November Council Highlights

- Church council held its regular monthly meeting on November 13. Major items on the agenda were:
- Updates on education and worship ministries.
 - Update on the stewardship drive and church finances.
 - Review of current issues with the building, including a failing circulating pump and cleaning the pews.
 - Review of recent fellowship events and plans for future ones.



- Thank you to Bruce Stevenson and John Cipollina for making repairs to the fellowship hall windows.
- Thank you to the church council for leading worship when Pastor Jon was on vacation on October 22.
- Thank you to Burdie Gillern and Ellen Storch for arranging the Thanksgiving basket collection and the Christmas gift card collection.
- Thank you to Greta Crowley and Karen Spawton for providing coffee hour.

From the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard:

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all of your generous support of our programs that help to feed our less fortunate in Ontario and surrounding counties. Without your generous support we could not afford to do so! Happy Thanksgiving!

-Marke and Marie Hamilton, Food Cupboard Thanksgiving Basket Program Coordinators



8:30 Breakfast Church during Advent

Our 8:30 worship service is having “breakfast church” during Advent. Tables will be set up in the fellowship hall. 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 and the service continues from there.



November Bible Trivia Answers

1. What Roman governor orders Jesus' execution?
Answer: Pontus Pilate (John 18:28)
2. Where does Jesus go to pray after the Last Supper?
Answer: A garden across the Kidron Valley (John 18:1)
3. Who cuts off the right ear of the high priest's slave?
Answer: Peter (John 18:10)
4. Who do the crowds shout to have released for them instead of Jesus? Answer: Barabbas (John 18:40)

December Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings we are using in worship during December.

1. What descends on/into Jesus when he is baptized?
2. What drives Jesus into the wilderness for his time of testing/temptation?
3. In what sea to Andrew, Simon (Peter), James, and John fish?
4. What was John the Baptist's clothing?

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 3-8 Cello Lessons	2
3 <u>1st Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church 9:30 Advent Family Workshop 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	4 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	6 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	7 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	8 3-8 Cello Lessons	9
10 <u>2nd Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Breakfast church with Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	11 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	13 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	14 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	15 3-8 Cello Lessons Food Cupboard Christmas basket food is delivered	16 Food Cupboard Christmas food basket distribution
17 <u>3rd Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Children's Christmas Program 12:00 Gingerbread House Competition	18 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	20 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	21 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	22 3-8 Cello Lessons	23
24 <u>4th Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church with Communion 10:30 Service of the Word 7:00 Candlelight Communion (Dec. 31 – see end of this row)	25 <u>Festival of the Incarnation, Christmas Day</u>	26 <u>St. Stephen, Martyr</u>	27 <u>John, Apostle</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	28 <u>The Holy Innocents</u> 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	29	30 31 <u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Holy Communion



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

888 County Rd. 9

Victor, NY 14564

The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

December Newsletter

December 10 Gingerbread House Competition