

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – February 2024

Pastor's Paragraphs

February 14 is Valentines Day. And this year February 14 is also Ash Wednesday. The words of Valentines Day are, "I love you." The words of Ash Wednesday are, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. They're certainly a contrast! Or are they?

They are both messages of love, even if they are talking about vastly different forms of love. Focusing on our mortality is a reminder of God's love for us.

The world seems vast. Mountains are high. Oceans are deep. Try driving across just the United States and you realize how big the world is. Can you imagine how big it all felt to those traveling in wagon trains? And yet look at the earth compared to the size of the universe and the world becomes an insignificantly small place. The earth is one planet among trillions. There are stars beyond counting, even in our galaxy. And our galaxy is one among billions. Who are we to think that we are anything to God given how vast it all is?

More than that – our span of life is an insignificant nothing compared to the fullness of time. In Herman Stuempfle's hymn *How Small Our Span of Life* (which we sang in worship on January 21) the first two verses are:

How small our span of life, O God,
our years from birth to death:
a single beat withing the heart,
the catching of a breath,
a drop within the ocean's deep,
a grain upon the shore,
a flash of light before we sleep
to see the sun no more.

And yet, our speck of life is spanned
by your infinity;
our tick of time on earth is caught
in your eternity.

While suns and stars spin endlessly
though depths of cosmic space,
while aeons roll and ages pass,
you hold us in your grace.

Said differently – we are insignificant nobodies who can do nothing in the grand scheme of the universe. Period. We are dust. To dust we shall return. There is

no reason whatsoever for God to recognize us or regard us at all. There is nothing we can offer God that is of any value whatsoever. There is nothing we can do that God can't get done by some other means.

And yet God loves us.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," are words that remind us of the truth that even though we are nothing God loves us enough to be born into our limited existence and live a lifetime among us. ...and then to die at our hands.

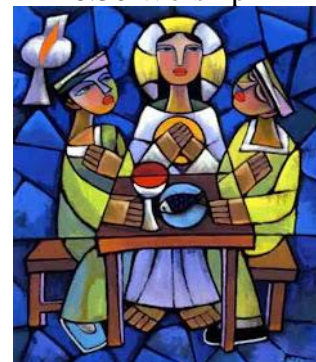
That is deep love. We are dust. It is true. But we are loved by God. God makes our dust worthwhile. God gives our transient insignificant lives significance.

So, if you have a hot date planned for Valentines Day I doubt worship will be the high point. But if you want an endlessly deep experience of being loved, it is in worship that you want to be. By remembering that we are nothing we are in awe that God has made us something!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Mid-Week Lenten Series Bible Stories in Art

Wednesdays 6:00 Soup and Bread Dinner,
6:30 Worship



This year's mid-week Lenten worship is about Bible stories in art. Each week we'll read a different Bible story and then see how three artists from different times or cultures have depicted it in art. Stories to be covered include: The Road to Emmaus, The Good Samaritan, Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.

February Worship Assistants

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Greeters & Ushers	Janice Lockwood	Phyllis Henderson	Rob Stroup	Bruce & Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Linn Griffio		Linn Griffio	
Communion Assistants	Christine Campbell		Sally Mansfield	
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel	Babette Huber & Nancy Shuler	Mary and Greg Zuege	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour				



Mark's Gospel Worship Series

We continue in Mark's gospel in February. Easter comes early this year, and we want to go through Mark's gospel by then. That means we'll look at some large texts in February. Here's what's planned:

February 4 - Mark 6:30-8:26

February 11 (Transfiguration) – Mark 8:27-9:9

February 18 – Mark 9:9-10:16

February 25 – Mark 10:17-31



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=ODJPMQ0UOL2lVdVVVLc1FJZnZSZ2k3QT09>

Meeting ID: 883 0296 0070

Passcode: 612837

• +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school is continuing to view the Netflix series *The Good Place*. 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.

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.



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14 – 7:00pm

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

Euchre Night – Feb 16

Euchre Night returns in 2024! We'll gather on Friday February 16 at 6pm. Play will start at 6:30. It'll be a round robin style event with teams constantly changing. Bring your own beverage and bring a snack to share. A sign up sheet is in the Gathering Area. Contact Beth Schroeder for more information.



Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is an annual tradition in our congregation's Lenten journey. This is the easiest thing to give up for Lent you will ever find! 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, once again give up your most worthless stuff so that God can turn it into heat and light!

Community Outreach Committee



Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl started in 1990 and that year 22 churches raised \$5,700.00 to help their local charities. In 2022 more than 4,350 groups collected over \$3.5 million worth of food and contributions. 100% of the money collected is given to the charity of your choice. We have chosen to give our donations to WORLD HUNGER.

The soup pot will out on Feb. 11th for contributions this year....Thanks so much!



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Fat Tuesday is February 13 this year. On this day Christians traditionally celebrated by consuming all the fat in their pantries in preparation for the somber and penitential season of Lent.

Our annual pancake supper starts at 6:00 with all the pancakes, sausage and fancy toppings you can eat! We'll also show the hilarious "Spring" episode from the British comedy *The Vicar of Dibley*. For kids we'll show a Veggie Tales video in a separate room.



8:30 Breakfast Church during Lent

Our 8:30 worship service will return to the "breakfast church" model during the season of Lent. 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.



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.
- 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.
- Becca (Boisseau) DeCann as she is again having heart rhythm issues.



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.

January Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on January 8. Major items on the agenda were:

- Work on the 2024 budget proposal.
- Potential candidates for seats on council to be elected at the annual meeting. Updates on education and worship ministries.
- Update on the stewardship drive and church finances.



Thrivent Night at the Strong National Museum of Play

Thrivent Members:

As a part of a Thrivent Member Network, you're among a group of local Christians who come together to learn, support one another, and make a real impact in our communities.

Sunday, February 18

4 to 5:30 Member Pre-Event

-dinner and a Thrivent update

5:30-8 Open Play

Members, friends and family can enjoy all the museum has to offer. Non-members are welcome. Registration and parking are free.

Registration required at:

bit.ly/STRONG24

or visit the events page at thrivent.com/northeast



- Thank you to everyone who helped with plowing snow in January.
- Thank you to Wendy Sackett and everyone who helped organize the children's Christmas program.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege, and Wilma Townsend for playing cello on Christmas Eve.
- Thank you to Karen Spawton for organizing a choir during Advent.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Advent choir.
- Thank you for the property committee for removing and cleaning up the Christmas decorations.



January Bible Trivia Answers

1. When the friends of a paralytic can't get to Jesus because of a crowd they get him to Jesus by lowering him through what? Answer: The roof (Mark 2:1-12)
2. How many swine are drown when they are possessed by the demons of the Gerasene man? Answer: 2000 (Mark 5:13)
3. In the parable of the sower what happens to the seed sown among the thorns? Answer: it is choked by the thorns (Mark 4:7)
4. Jesus is amazed at the unbelief of the people of what town? Answer: Nazareth (Mark 6:1-6)

February Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. When the disciples see Jesus walking on the sea what do they think it is?
2. The Syrophenician woman who pesters Jesus was asking for healing for whom?
3. What three disciples witnessed the transfiguration?
4. What does Jesus tell the rich man he must do to receive eternal life?

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons 8:30 William Shi Piano Recital at Kilbourn Hall	2 3-8 Cello Lessons	3
4 <u>5th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	5 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	7 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	8 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	9 3-8 Cello Lessons	10
11 <u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Sunday School Children lead worship	12 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 1:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 3-7 Violin Lessons	14 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Holy Communion 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	15 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	16 3-8 Cello Lessons	17
18 <u>1st Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 4-8 Thrivent Night at Strong Museum	19	20 1:00 Women's Bible Study	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	22 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	23 3-8 Cello Lessons	24
25 <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	26 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	28 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous			



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

February Newsletter

13 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

14 Ash Wednesday Worship