

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – January 2021

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

There has been lots to worry about in 2020:
political elections,
racial tensions,
unprecedented forest fires,
a record hurricane season,
... and oh yeah, a pandemic!

Worry can come from other places too:
medical diagnosis,
finances,
court cases,
relationships,
grades,
job security,
... and plenty more!

When you're in the midst of something worry can be overwhelming. You can find yourself lying awake at night running things over and over again in your mind. Bad outcome after bad outcome comes to mind. Good outcomes may come to mind only fleetingly. It is easy to despair.

There's no quick and easy fix to worry. It is, however, good to keep it all in perspective. While the future looks like an unknown path to us, it is not unknown to God.

A seminary professor liked to say that God is already in the future and God is drawing us forward to its certain fulfillment. You see, the future is in God's hands completely. While yes, we want to live with hard work and integrity, there is nothing we can do to disrupt God's future. And even if all does go completely wrong we have these sure words from St. Paul to the Romans:

"I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." (8:18)

And, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (8:38-9)

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 resumes online on January 10. Confirmands will continue to receive a link for Zoom each week.

Men's Breakfast Women's Bible Study

The weekly men's and women's Bible studies are continuing in person. Both groups will meet in the sanctuary since it is the only room we are keeping warm.

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



January Bible Readings for Worship

- January 3 – Mark 1
- January 10 – Mark 2-3 (conflict begins)
- January 17 – Mark 4:1-34 (parables)
- January 24 – Mark 4:35-5:43
- January 31 – Mark 6:1-29

Service

2021 Stewardship Drive

The 2021 stewardship drive is underway! If you are making a financial pledge for 2021 please return your pledge card to the church as soon as possible.

Community Outreach Committee

Mitten Tree

Thanks to everyone who helped fill up the mitten tree with items! Special thanks to the person that brought in the beautiful hand knit gloves and hats. They are wonderful!

The Giving Tree – Christmas Gifts Thanks

From Victor Central Schools

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

-William Arthur Ward

We would like to express our gratitude for your assistance with The Giving Tree this year. We were truly concerned how we were going to provide for families and keep our gift givers safe. We were overjoyed at the response as the need was great this year. We should have known that Victor comes together as a community to support those in need and we are grateful to be a part of it.

As this year has been difficult for many, on behalf of the 100+ families that we supported by The Giving Tree, thank you for your generosity and your giving hearts.

As always, as we close another year of helping others, we are wishing you and your family peace, health, and happiness!

Respectfully yours, and with sincere gratitude,
Liz McLean & Jody Drew



-Thank you to everyone who helped shovel and plow snow in December.

-Thank you to everyone who made a financial pledge for 2021.

-Thank you to Bruce Stevenson, Joe Pow and John CiPollina (The Three Stooges?) for making various repairs around the building.

-Thank you to Bill & Katy Stimmel, Dave Bullwinkle, Gary Wood, Beth Schroeder and Rob Stroup for putting the 2021 stewardship campaign together.

-Thank you to Mike Ross for his working preparing the “new” snow plow truck for this year.

-Thank you to Jen White, Elizabeth Young, and Wendy Sackett for creating the Sunday school Christmas program.



- 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 continue to worsen.
- The family and friends of Don Curtis as they mourn his death.
- 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.
- Blake Stevenson as he is (or has been) on a ventilator because of COVID.

Nuts and Bolts

December Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on - December 21st. Topics and decisions were:

- reviewed current church operations in light of the pandemic
- approved for membership Peter and Kathy Eppeira and Bill and Elynore Bullwinkle
- 2021 stewardship drive

Annual Reports

All committee reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office by December 31st. Email or electronic versions are preferred. You can email your report to: sjlcvictor@gmail.com

Church Council Positions

We will have three open Council positions to elect at our upcoming annual meeting. Council meets once a month (except no meeting in July) from 7:00-9:00 PM traditionally on the third Monday of the month, but that date can be changed to suit the schedules of the council members. If you are interested in serving on this team, please see Gary Wood or Pastor Jon.

2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 31st after the 10:30 worship service. It will take place via Zoom; being a continuation of the same link we used for worship. There will be the usual items on the agenda: review of reports, elections for church council, and the church budget. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Jon before the meeting.

Annual Meeting Agenda

All items of business or theology for the annual meeting must be turned in to the church office by December 31st.

Fun



December Bible Trivia Answers

1. Complete this famous verse from Romans, "since all have sinned and fall... Answer: ...short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
2. Complete this famous verse from Romans, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time... Answer: "...are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)
3. Of faith, hope, and love which is the greatest? Answer: love (1 Corinthians 13:13)
4. The "world itself" could not contain all the what? Answer: books that could be written about what Jesus did (John 21:25)

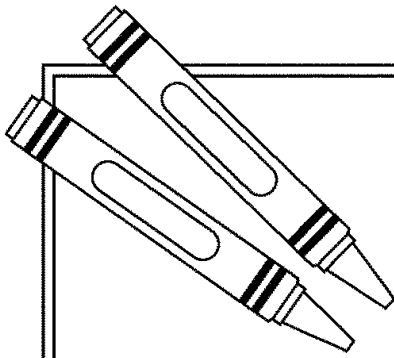
January Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. When Jesus casts an unclean spirit out of a man the crowds call it a new what?
2. In what river was Jesus "baptized" by John?
3. What was the occupation of Andrew, Simon (Peter), James, and John?
4. Jesus is amazed at the unbelief of the people of what town?

JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <u>The Name of Jesus</u> <u>also New Year's Day</u>	2 Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, 1872
3 <u>2nd Sunday of Christmas</u> 10:30 Worship (Online)	4 7:00 Boy Scouts	5	6 <u>Epiphany</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study	7 7:00 Worship and Music Committee (Zoom)	8	9
10 <u>1st Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)	11 7:00 Church Council (Zoom) 7:00 Boy Scouts	12	13 9:00-3:00 Synod Pre-Lent Retreat (online, St. John's hosts) 1:00 Women's Bible Study	14	15 King Jr. renewer of society, martyr 1968 3-8 Cello Lessons	16
17 <u>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</u> Antony of Egypt 356 & Pachomius 346, renewers of the church 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)	18 <u>Confession of St. Peter</u> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	19 Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	20 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	21 Agnes, martyr, 304 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	22 3-8 Cello Lessons Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	23 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
24 <u>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online) 11:30 Lyons cong. annual meeting Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	25 <u>Conversion of St. Paul</u> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	26 Timothy, Titus, and Silas, Missionaries	27 Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study	28	29 3-8 Cello Lessons	30
31 <u>4th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online) 11:30 Victor cong. annual meeting						



Just for **KIDS**

Worship

People gather to worship God in many different places. Church buildings have different names. But each church has many of the same things in the church building and many of the same parts in the worship service. We worship the same God!

Here are some parts of worship and churches that are the same for many. Circle them in the puzzle. You will find them up, down, diagonal and across.

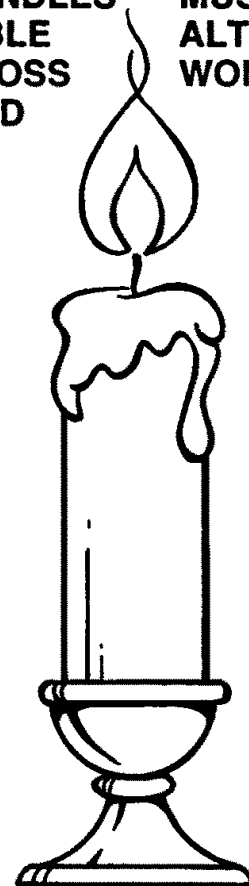
**PRAISE
PARDON
SCRIPTURE
COMMUNION
MEN**

**CONFESSION
OFFERING
SERMON
AFFIRMATION
CHILDREN**

**HYMNS
CANDLES
BIBLE
CROSS
GOD**

**PRAYER
MUSIC
ALTAR
WOMEN**

C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N	A
O	R	P	A	R	D	O	N	C	F
N	A	O	M	U	S	I	C	A	F
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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

January Newsletter

January 31 – Annual Meeting