

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – January 2022

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

As we head through January our Bible readings in worship put prophecies into action. We're continuing through Luke's gospel. Prior to this we've heard predictions from Mary the mother of Jesus and Zechariah the father of John the Baptist. We also heard from Simeon, Anna, religious leaders, and a whole crowd. The anticipation has been growing. We know something big is going to happen!

Then it does happen! As we'll be reading in January, John the Baptist has huge crowds coming to him in the wilderness. He is preaching a mighty message of repentance. Then Jesus comes and is baptized. He then heads into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. January will end with Jesus preaching in his hometown and getting quite a reaction from the hometown crowd. Things are changing. God's kingdom is breaking in!

But I suspect we will not be feeling such an inbreaking in our own lives through January. It will be New Years. People will make resolutions, keep them for a little while, and then break them. The pandemic will continue on with no end in sight. Politics will remain as polarized as ever. There will continue to be weather emergencies, murders, financial scandals, and on and on.

Wouldn't it be great if in the news we heard of God's kingdom breaking in and then learning of its progress as goodness spreads noticeably in the world? Even if it was very slow and arduous progress it would still be progress. It's goodness spreading noticeably in the world!

Matthew's gospel says that the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. Where is that light? Why does it not seem to shine more brightly? If anything, as churches and faith continue to decline in the western world, it seems like the light is fading.

But it is not. God's light is shining just as brightly as ever. Whether the news reports it or not God's kingdom is still breaking in and spreading throughout the world. When life seems exhausting because problems don't seem to go away remind yourself that God is active despite what is visible.

The farther we journey into Luke's gospel the more we will see that not everyone is seeing the light. Many

are rejected it. Many are opposed to God's kingdom. And of course ultimately, it looks like Jesus' mission has failed utterly. Those opposed to Jesus think they have triumphed when they kill him.

But God was not done. God was active all along. And God has brought about the exact outcome God wanted to accomplish.

I know it can be hard, but truly trust that God knows what God is doing. Deep in the fabric of the stories of Jesus we realize that God's purposes remain unseen in the larger world. But those who dare to hope do find it; although it is hard.

Remember, no task worth doing is easy. God's kingdom is the most worthwhile task there is. In 2022 continue to work for God's kingdom. Press against all who would destroy God's loving purposes. Give, love, help, and forgive as much as you possibly can. God will certainly be working through you!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Missionaries Updates

We have been supporting two missionaries for the past several years. The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff is leading the South Wedge Mission in Rochester. This is a joint venture between the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester and our own synod to provide a presence in the South Wedge at the place where Peace Lutheran used to be. The new congregation has had its ups and downs but has developed enough to soon be considered an independent congregation. Congratulations and blessings to them!

The Rev. Karen Anderson is a missionary to Chile. From 1982 to 2000 she founded and directed Educacion Popular en Salud (Popular Education for Health). In 2009 she returned to help the program develop into an international presence. Since then they have grown to 187 participants in 25 countries. Due to the pandemic Karen was called back to the United States. She continues to work remotely from here and hopes to return as soon as possible.

Worship

January Worship Assistants

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Greeters & Ushers	Helen Crown	Linda Flood	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Gary Wood	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Lector (8:30)					
Acolyte	Brody Ireland	Creed White	Jonathan Buch	Owen Young	Brody Ireland
Altar Care (10:30)	Mary Zuege		Mary Zuege		No Communion
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseay & Rob Stroup		Adele Garvey & Linda Flood		Nancy & Ivan Shuler
Nursery Care					
Counters					
Coffee Hour				Annual Meeting – Sandwiches-	



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

As the new year begins we continue the story from Luke's gospel. We'll see Jesus at age 12. We'll meet John the Baptist as a grown up. And we'll see Jesus and John interact. The month wraps up with Jesus' being tested by the devil in the wilderness and Jesus returning to his hometown.

January 2 – Luke 2:41-52

January 9 – Luke 3:1-20

January 16 – Luke 3:21-38

January 23 – Luke 4:1-13

January 30 – Luke 4:14-30

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



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)

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 to everyone who provided food and support for the parish Thanksgiving dinner. A special thank you to Joe Poe and Julie Stuart for cooking turkeys!
- Thank you to everyone who helped with set up and tear down for the gingerbread house competition.
- Thank you to Bruce Stevenson and John CiPollina for installing the Knox key box that we need for fire department access to the building.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating the building for Christmas.
- Thank you to Gary Boisseau for making repairs to the fire alarm system.

Community Outreach Committee

- Thank you to everyone who gave items for the mitten tree; especially the homemade knit items. They are beautiful!
- The Super Bowl is Sunday February 6. We will again collect donations in a soup pot for "Souper Bowl" Sunday. All donations will go to World Hunger.

Thank you from Liz McLean and Jody Drew of the Victor Central School:

On behalf of both of us, thank you! We couldn't do this without your generous spirit. The Giving Tree exists simply because of you. We have been coordinating this program since 2015 and every year we are amazed at the response from our supporters.

This year, with your generosity, The Giving Tree was able to assist 101 families which in turn helped 219 children. You can't see us, but we are smiling right now. More importantly, you brought smiles to the faces of many children.

Again, thank you! We hope this coming year brings you and your family peace, health and happiness!



- 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 surgery and is considering living in a nursing home.
- 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.
- The family and friends of Maureen Betsinger as they mourn her death.

LWR Personal Care Kit Collection

With the numerous crisis going on throughout the world we are helping Lutheran World Relief replenish their emergency supply of personal care kits. During January we will collect these items: lightweight bath size towel, bath sized bar soap in original wrapping, adult sized toothbrush in original wrapping, sturdy combs, metal nail clippers. A complete set of instructions can be found at lwr.org or on the usher's stand at church.

Nuts and Bolts

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



2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 23rd after the 10:30 worship service. 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.

Church Council Positions

We will have four 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 Beth Schroeder, Gary Wood, or Pastor Jon.

Annual Meeting Agenda

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

Financial Pledge Reminder

A big thanks to all of you who make financial commitments to St. John's! We greatly appreciate your generosity. As we near the end of the calendar year, I would kindly ask you to make every effort to fulfill your financial pledges. We have done well this year, so let's finish 2021 strong!

Rob Stroup, Treasurer

2022 Membership Directory

We will print a new membership directory in February of 2022. The current contact information we have for you will be put out on tables in the Gathering Area. Please review the information we have for you and make any updates or corrections.

New Member!

Please welcome these Dianne Millard to St. John's! Look for her contact information in the new membership directory which will come out in February.



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.

December Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on December 20th. Major items on the agenda were:

- 2022 stewardship drive
- initial planning for the 2022 budget
- updates on the racoon remediation project
- pandemic operating procedures
- creating an electronic giving opportunity like Venmo

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.

Fun Gingerbread House Competition Winner!

Congratulations to Amalia Ireland and Morgan Sackett on their winning design and construction! They received the most votes from the congregation. This team is becoming repeat winners! Unfortunately they started to take some bites from their winning house before we could snap a picture!



December Bible Trivia Answers

1. Who does Luke dedicate his gospel to? Answer: Theophilus (Luke 1:3)
2. What two elderly people meet Joseph and Mary when they take Jesus to the temple after his birth? Answer: Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25,36)
3. What angel came to Mary to tell her of Jesus' conception? Answer: Gabriel (Luke 1:26)
4. Who was born first, John the Baptist or Jesus? Answer: John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-2:20)

January Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. How old was Jesus when his parents accidentally left him behind in the temple?
2. John the Baptist said he was unworthy to untie what of the coming Messiah?
3. What high place did the devil take Jesus and tempt him to throw himself down?
4. What does the devil tempt Jesus to turn into a loaf of bread?

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <u>2nd Sunday of Christmas</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	3 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 3-6 Music Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7 Community Chorus	5 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	6 <u>Epiphany</u> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	7 3-8 Cello Lessons	8
9 <u>1st Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	10 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 3-6 Music Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7 Community Chorus	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	13 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 6:30-7:30 Cub Scout Pack 67	14 3-8 Cello Lessons	15
16 <u>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	17 <u>King Jr. Day</u> 7:00 Church Council	18 <u>Confession of St. Peter</u> 3-6 Music Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	19 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	20	21 3-8 Cello Lessons	22
23 <u>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Annual Congregational Meeting	24 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 <u>Conversion of St. Paul</u> 3-6 Music Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 6-8 Pipe Band	26 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	27 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 6:30-7:30 Cub Scout Pack 67	28 7:00 Candlelight Communion	29
30 <u>4th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	31 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts					



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 23 – Annual Meeting