

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – January 2023

Pastor's Paragraphs

January 1, 2023 - New Year's Day.

A fresh start.

A new beginning.

How long do you think it'll be before it becomes a tarnished mess?

Many people make New Year's resolutions. Rarely are they kept all that long.

Why is that?

Are we weak? Are we fickle?

Enter into the world of our habits Isaac Newton's "First Law of Motion": An object in motion tends to stay in motion. An object at rest tends to stay at rest.

Any time – ANY TIME – we try to change something in our lives it takes a lot of effort. Are you a hard worker? Try being lazy and see how long it is before people pressure you to get back to work. Are you lazy? Try working hard and see how long it is before people become suspicious of your newfound energy.

Making changes in our lives ripples across all our relationships. People are used to us the way we are. A change, even if it's positive, will cause others to react. If we change they will have to change too, even if it's just a little bit. A change involves more than ourselves. It involves changing the entire momentum of everyone who is connected to our lives. It's no wonder it's hard to keep New Years resolutions!

In January we'll be reading the words of John the Baptist during worship. He calls for repentance from his hearers. The repentance he calls for would be a radical change for most. Who knows how many people really changed their lives. It was probably few. But John called them to do it.

The good news for us is that God is gracious and forgiving. God knows that change within ourselves often involves more than just ourselves. And so indeed repent of those things that you do wrong. Change. Improve. Get better. But don't be surprised when you fail. The important thing is to keep trying. Change does happen. We can improve. It is when we quit trying that we truly lose.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

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: sjlcvector@gmail.com



2023 Annual Meeting

The 2023 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 22nd 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.

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, please make every effort to fulfill your financial pledges. We have done well this year, so let's finish 2022 strong.

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.

January Worship Assistants

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Greeters & Ushers	Volunteers	Gary Wood	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Volunteer	Owen Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Creed White	Owen Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Volunteer		Gary Boisseau		No communion
Communion Assistants	Volunteer		Adele Garvey		No communion
Counters					
Coffee Hour				Annual Meeting – Sandwiches	



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

January 1 - Matthew 3
 January 8 – Matthew 4
 January 15 – Matthew 8-9:35
 January 22 - Matthew 9:35-11:1
 January 29 – Matthew 11:1-19

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: 894 6565 2592

Passcode: 537281

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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88196123572?pwd=TUQvYlJSd3NuRDdxWWlpWThHMHR2QT09>

JSd3NuRDdxWWlpWThHMHR2QT09

Meeting ID: 881 9612 3572

Passcode: 386489

To phone: 1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

2023 Stewardship Drive

You should have received the 2023 stewardship drive materials. If you have not returned the pledge card please do so. If you did not receive the stewardship materials please talk to Bill Stimmel.

Gingerbread House Competition Winner!

Congratulations to Thomas Bullwinkle on his winning design and construction! He received the most votes from the congregation. Unfortunately we did not get a picture of his winning house. shower gifts.



- 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. She is recovering but at this point it is not known how full her recovery will be.



- Thank you to everyone who helped with snow plowing in December
- Thank you to everyone who gave hats, scarves and mittens for the mitten tree.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the gingerbread house competition.
- Thank you to John CiPollina for replacing the bench for the fellowship hall piano, and also for replacing the insulation that had been removed from the new entrance room.
- Thank you to Sue Kaufmann, Carol Urbanic, and Ella Schuller for providing coffee hour.
- Thank you to Julie Stuart and Wendy Sackett for all their behind the scenes work for the Christmas pageant.
- Thank you to Jim & Karen Spawton, Wilma Townsend, Emma Deibler, and Dave Bullwinkle for taking the adult roles in the Christmas pageant.
- Thank you to Gary Boisseau for replacing the fire alarm control panel.

Community Outreach Committee

Christmas Mitten Tree

Thanks so much to everyone who brought in items for the mitten tree. A special thank you to the person who brought in the hand knit items. They are beautiful! We received 123 items in all. That's one of our best years ever!



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. 12th for contributions this year....Thanks so much!

December Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on December 19th. The biggest item on the agenda was the creation of the 2023 budget. The council was able to make a first draft of it, but it will depend significantly on revenue continuing to come in this year. The council also noted that our Facebook page had been removed because of content issues. We have inquired about it and the page has been reinstated.

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.)

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.

Church Playground Can & Bottle Collection Updates

We continue collecting deposit cans and bottles for replacing the playground. The cans and bottles fund is up to \$2571!!



Sponsor Accessories for the New Playground

The new playground has been ordered! It will be installed sometime in the spring. We have received several donations toward buying the accessories for the playground. Thank you to everyone who has given! There are still several things left to sponsor. Here's the list:

Sm Rock Wall	\$249
Angled Climber	100
6' Torpedo Straight Slide	599
Tic Tac Toe Panel	299
Lg Rock Wall	399
Log Rope Climber	299
Steering Wheel	100

Please talk to Julie Stewart or Pastor Jon if you're interested in sponsoring an accessory.



Do you have questions about Family Promise of Ontario County? Do you wish we had more opportunities for direct contact with our families? Do you miss bringing a hot dinner to church or spending time with the families? Are you wondering if there is more for you to do as well as donating money for gas cards or grocery bills?

The answers may be on the horizon

.....
.....
COME TO THE 10:30 service on SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th (while Pastor Jon is away) Jay Garrett-Larsen, Community and Landlord Engagement Manager will be with us to present the new model of service that was developed in part as a response to the covid19 pandemic. In order for Jay to be better prepared to address our concerns, I would like to submit them to Jay ahead of time. Please send them to me at dushenkom@yahoo.com or write them down and pop them into the "Zuege" mailbox by January 22. You can submit anonymously if you prefer, and everything will go to Jay anonymously. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions in writing and aloud on the 29th.

Please plan to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about Family Promise of Ontario County and the diverse opportunities to serve.

Thank you,
Mary Zuege



December Bible Trivia Answers

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

1. In what type of building was Jesus when the Wise Men visit him? Answer: A house (Matthew 2:11)
2. To what nation does Jesus' family flee after the visit of the Wise Men? Answer: Egypt (Matthew 2:13)
3. What convinces Joseph to marry Mary despite her pregnancy? Answer: A dream (Matthew 1:20)
4. What does Emmanuel mean? Answer: God is with us. (Matthew 2:23)

January Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What did John the Baptist call the Pharisees and Sadducees who were coming to him?
2. In what river was Jesus baptized by John?
3. How many days does Jesus spend in the wilderness being tested by the devil?
4. When Jesus moves away from Nazareth in what city/town does he start to live?

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>The Name of Jesus – New Year's Day</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	2 3-7 Violin Lessons	3 3-7 Violin Lessons	4 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	5 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	6 <u>Epiphany</u> 3-8 Cello Lessons	7
8 <u>1st Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	9 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	11 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	12 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	13 3-8 Cello Lessons	14
15 <u>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	16 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	17 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	18 <u>Confession of St. Peter</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	19 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	20 3-8 Cello Lessons	21
22 <u>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word 12:00 Annual Congregational Meeting	23 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	25 <u>Conversion of St. Paul</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	26 0:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	27 3-8 Cello Lessons	28
29 <u>4th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	30 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	31 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus				



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

January Newsletter

January 22 – Annual Congregational Meeting