

# On Eagle's Wings



## St. John's Monthly Newsletter – January 2024

### Pastor's Paragraphs

2023 in review:

- War in Ukraine. War in Gaza. And plenty more... World Population Review lists 32 countries currently at war. The majority of nations on the African continent are currently involved in either outright war or serious armed conflict.
- The United Nations estimates 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced as of 2022. The 2023 estimates haven't been made yet.
- NOAA estimates the 2023 hurricane season caused \$57 billion in damage.
- CNN estimates wildfires are causing somewhere between \$394 billion and \$893 billion in losses to the United States economy each year.

How did 2023 go for you? Considering the above statistics, you're probably thinking it went comparatively well! That is something to be thankful for! But before I go on I want to note two more things.

(1) I've had a growing number of parents express their frustration and exhaustion with their kids' schedules. Sports, music, drama, and other extracurricular activities are scheduled morning, noon, and night seven days a week, twelve months of the year. It is outright impossible to keep up with the schedules of multiple children. Backing off from any of it puts their kids at a serious disadvantage.

(2) And finally, many people who have jobs are commenting that they are expected to work, or make themselves available for work, seven days a week.

There is no wonder mental and physical health is suffering!

In the first months of 2024 we're going to be reading through Mark's gospel during worship. Mark pulls the rug out from under the world order of his day. His writing can do the same for this day too. Mark simply sees the world on the wrong track. He critiques Judaism, Greek mythology, philosophy (and science), wealth, power, privilege... you name it. Mark's gospel takes aim at it! He critiques it all through the crucifixion of Jesus.

It would be wrong to say that Mark offers solutions for a world that is going out of control. He doesn't. But he does offer a different way of viewing the world. Mark can give a faith-filled and fresh perspective on our world. It is one that is sorely needed.

If you're in worship regularly, or if you're reading Mark's gospel on your own, notice that he challenges many assumptions. He reshapes things in a faith perspective. While that doesn't necessarily give answers, it does give a constructive response.

I hope things in 2024 improve in the world. Time will tell. But Mark's gospel will help us make the parts of the world we influence better places for all.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

### Annual Reports

All committee reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Email or electronic versions are preferred. You can email your report to: [sjlcvector@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcvector@gmail.com)



### 2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 21st 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 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 2023 strong.

## January Worship Assistants

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Greeters & Ushers	John and Linda Thompson	Sue Kaufmann	Helen Crown	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau	
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann		Gary Boisseau	
Counters				
Coffee Hour			Annual Meeting-Sandwiches	



### Mark's Gospel Worship Series

We're reading through Mark's gospel during worship in the first months of this year. Mark's gospel is very fast paced. It tells us little about what Jesus said. Instead it is all about what Jesus did. Here's what we'll look at in January.

January 7 – Mark 2:3 (conflict begins)

January 14 – Mark 4:1-34 (parables)

January 21 – Mark 4:35-5:43

January 28 – Mark 6:1-29



### 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=ODJJPQ0U0L2lVdVVVLc1FJZnZSZ2k3QT09>

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.



### 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.

## December Council Highlights

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

- Initial review of the 2024 budget.
- Updates on education and worship ministries.
- Update on the stewardship drive and church finances.
- Formation of the nominating committee



- Thank you to everyone who helped with cooking food and with set up for the parish Thanksgiving dinner.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the gingerbread house competition.
- Thank you for the property committee for decorating the church for Christmas.
- Thank you to John Cipollina for removing the bees/yellow jackets nest in the back classroom and making the wall repairs.

From the Community Outreach Committee:

- Thank you to everyone who gave gift cards for the school collection.
- Thank you to everyone who gave gifts for the three children and their mother from Family Promise.
- Thank you to everyone who gave hats, mittens, and scarves on the mitten tree. We received about 100 items. Special thanks to the person who gave the hand knit items. They are beautiful and special.

From the Victor Central School for the gift cards to needy families:

"A grateful heart is the best kind to have!"

We are very grateful and our hearts are full.

We have been the devoted coordinators of this program since 2014, and this year was our last. We are passing the torch to the next generation.

We would like to thank you for your undying support, generosity, and giving spirit over many years. Since

2014, you lovingly aided us in supporting 1000+ children in our school community.

This year, with your donations, The Giving Tree was able to assist 114 families which in turn helped 266 children.

We hope the coming years bring you and your families peace, health, and happiness!

With grateful hearts – thank you!

Respectfully yours, with sincere gratitude,

Liz McLean & Jody Drew



## December Bible Trivia Answers

1. What descends on/into Jesus when he is baptized?  
Answer: The Holy Spirit like a dove/pigeon (Mark 1:10)
2. What drives Jesus into the wilderness for his time of testing/temptation? Answer: Holy Spirit (Mark 1:12)
3. In what sea to Andrew, Simon (Peter), James, and John fish? Answer: Galilee (Mark 1:16)
4. What was John the Baptist's clothing? Answer: camel's hair and leather (Mark 1:6)

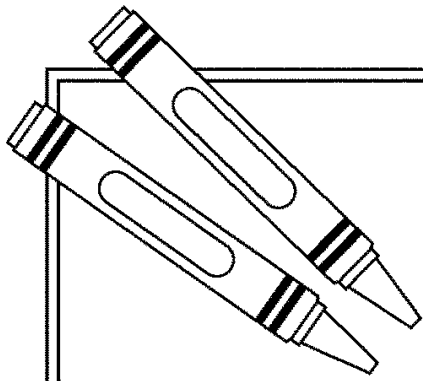
## January Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings used during worship in January.

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?
2. How many swine are drown when they are possessed by the demons of the Gerasene man?
3. In the parable of the sower what happens to the seed sown among the thorns?
4. Jesus is amazed at the unbelief of the people of what town?

# January 2024

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

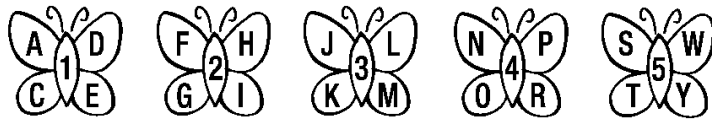


# Just for KIDS

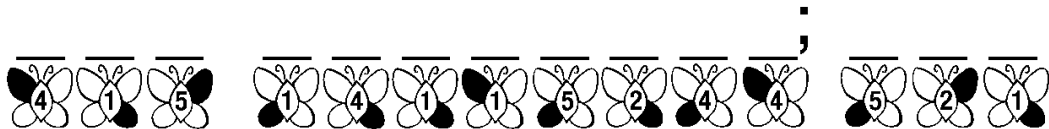
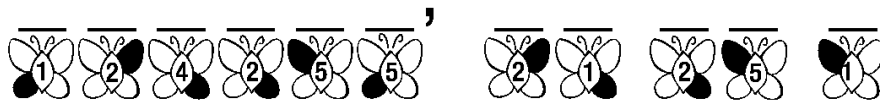
## Happy New Day!

Each January 1 we begin a new year. But each day we also have a chance to begin again!

Use the code to find 2 Corinthians 5:17.



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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 21 Annual

Congregational Meeting