

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – July/August 2021

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

In my role as conference dean of I am regularly interacting with other churches. As the masking and distancing requirements of the pandemic are being lowered I'm disturbed by some of the thoughts I am encountering. At St. John's we have relaxed many pandemic requirements but are also continuing many. Some congregations however just want to go back to "normal." They say that if everyone in the congregation is vaccinated, why do they have to continue pandemic requirements? Or they say that those who are vaccinated should be allowed to go back to normal while those who aren't should either stay away or be separated into a different part of the building/room. On one hand I understand their feelings. On the other hand they seem to have no problem excluding all those who for whatever reason are not vaccinated (those who are too young or who have underlying medical conditions). I recently attended a council meeting at another church when all of this came up. As dean I shared that the church needs to be a safe place for everyone. I shared suggestions similar to what we are doing. I said that a central part of our faith is "caring for the least and lost". That means that we often have to inconvenience ourselves for the sake of others. But all of those thoughts were completely ignored.

All of this has helped me realize a flaw in what I was taught at seminary and a flaw that can be created in the thinking of congregations. I was taught many and various ways to make a church attractive to newcomers. I was taught that a church should have a host of programs and ministries designed to be appealing. I was taught to know what people were looking for in a church and to make sure your congregation had those things. All of this was taught in the name of "evangelism".

While we indeed want to be accepting, welcoming, and friendly to all, this sort of thinking can get it all backwards. Yes, a church needs to be able to address the needs of its parishioners. However, the church is not about catering to its members wants and whims. The church should equip people for service in God's kingdom. That means being a place that both serves and expects service.

The idea of a church existing to meet people's wants and whims can run deep. People will choose a church because of its choir, its hymn choices, social ministries, the charisma of its pastor, or other things. People tell themselves these things "feed" them and thus they have every right to them. I understand their feelings, but the thinking is misguided. Again, a church needs to both serve and equip people for real service. I'll always remember something the late Jim Nohe said when we were changing some ministries. Jim said he didn't like the changes but he knew they were better for the sake of the church. He ultimately supported them even though it meant he would be receiving less.

The world and the church are changing rapidly. I pray that God will guide us through what is ahead. I pray that God will give us what our faith needs for nourishment and that God equips us to also bear the burdens necessary to make true the words that we pray, "thy kingdom come."

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Worship



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

Our worship series on the Old Testament prophets takes us to these passages in July and August.

July 4 – Habakkuk 2

July 11 – Zephaniah 1,3

July 18 – Haggai 1

July 25 – Zechariah 3

August 1 – Malachi 3

August 8 – Nahum 3

August 15 – Jonah 1,3-4

August 22 – Isaiah 6 (1st Isaiah)

August 29 – Isaiah 40 (2nd Isaiah)

Worship (Cont.)

Pandemic Considerations

As you know, the pandemic caused us to make a number of alterations to worship. We have eased many of them but are keeping some for the rest of the summer. We intend to continue with our current plans for communion distribution and coffee hour. We'll reevaluate things at the end of summer.

Pianist Dr. Nathan Cheung Taking a New Position

Nathan has been our pianist for the last couple years and he's guided our music program through the pandemic. Nathan has accepted a teaching position at the University of Indiana. Congratulations Nathan! He will be with us through the month of July. For the remaining weeks that he is with us we have invited him to share many of his favorite pieces of music as preludes/postludes/special music. Be sure to come (or Zoom in) to hear some amazing things! We'll have some special farewell things for him on his last Sunday with us.

8:30 Worship Outside

The 8:30 worship service is in the outdoor chapel for the summer months. If it's rainy it'll be moved to the fellowship hall. Please remember that the grass in the outdoor chapel is often wet. Wear appropriate shoes!

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

Service

Lawn Mowing Volunteers

We are looking for people to help mow the church lawn. There is a commercial mower that is easy to use and a small lawn tractor. It usually takes a couple hours for a team of two. Training is available. Talk to Tom Urbanic if you're willing to help.

Garden Project Progress

At the garden the potatoes in the garden are up and doing great! This year's sweet corn is struggling and most of it was replanted. Time will tell. This year's pumpkin crop will probably end up being mediocre. If you're able to help with driving the tractor for the cultivator, or running a rototiller, or doing some hand weeding please let Pastor Jon know.

At church the apple trees are doing well. Most of them have a good number of apples. Gypsy moths are around this year and they're enjoying the apple trees though. Hopefully they don't become too bad. A family of robins has built a nest in one of the trees. If you walk up to check out the trees don't be surprised to hear their squawks of disapproval.

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.)

Maggie's Kids Summer Camp Day at St. John's

We are hosting the Maggie's Kids/Community Lutheran Ministry summer day camp on Monday July 5. We're looking for donations of: juice boxes, small assorted bags of chips, 9oz. dixie cups, 4oz. yogurts, granola bars, fruit roll ups, mini muffins, and cookies (no peanuts). Financial donations toward these items would also be appreciated. Finally, we're looking for some helpers that day, beginning at 8:30. We'd also like to borrow three coolers. If you can help please see the sign up sheets in the Gathering Area or talk to Burdie Gillern.

Service (Cont.)



- Thank you to Kelsey Sackett for the can and bottle drive that has raised funds to replace the playground.
- Thank you to everyone who mowed the church lawn in June.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for providing flowers from her garden on many recent Sundays.
- Thank you to everyone who has been helping weed and care for the flower beds and memorial garden. They look great!
- Thank you to Emma Deibler for regularly fertilizing the apple trees and the newly planted oak trees.
- Thank you to the property committee for working to address the invasive pests (probably raccoons) that have moved into the sanctuary roof. Hopefully they'll be removed soon!



- 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.
- Linda Ellis whose cancer issues continue.
- Knute Halvorson as he lives with declining health.
- Eleanor Spawton, Jim Spawton's mother, who has a weakening heart valve.
- Zack Anderson, fiancé of Marcia Zavacki's granddaughter who is in need of a liver transplant after his kidneys and liver began to fail.
- The family and friends of Joe Pow (the 1st) as they mourn his death.
- Curt Stromstad as he recovers from health issues.
- Sandra Smith, sister of Nancy Pape and Adele Garvey, as she has surgery in late June.

Nuts and Bolts

June Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on June 21. Major items on the agenda were:

- reviewing pandemic operating procedures
- explore hosting a school age child care program at the church (run by a private company)
- seeking a new pianist

Church Playground Can & Bottle Collection

Kelsey Sackett has been collecting cans and bottles for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Her project was to create a new playground for the church. Unfortunately the pandemic has made it impossible for her to achieve that Gold Award. She's decided to wrap up the can and bottle collection. She's donating the \$1300 raised so far to the church for when we do replace the playground. Thank you Kelsey! The collection bin for cans and bottles will be out for a few more weeks if you still have some to give.

Address Updates

Knute Halvorson
4605 Timber Ridge Road, Room 100
Douglasville, GA 30135

Marie Kesel
Signature Healthcare at Chapel Hill, Room 108 B
1602 E. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Fun

June Bible Trivia Answers

1. What does Amos call the women of Bashan? Answer: Cows (Amos 4:1)
2. What tiny nation does Obadiah prophesy against? Answer: Edom (Obadiah 1)
3. What six winged creatures does Isaiah envision flying around the throne of God? Answer: seraphs (Isaiah 6:2)
4. In Isaiah's vision of God's throne room what is put on the prophet's lips to cleanse his words? Answer: a live burning coal (Isaiah 6:6)

July/August Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What swallows Jonah?
2. What city does Nahum speak against?
3. What building does Haggai push to have finished?
4. According to Habakkuk the righteous live by what? (St. Paul quotes this.)

JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Catherine Winkworth, 1878; John Mason Neale, 1866, hymn translators	2 3-8 Cello Lessons	3 <u>Thomas, Apostle</u>
4 <u>6th Sunday After Pentecost</u> <u>Independence Day</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	5	6 Jan Hus, martyr, 1415 6-8 Pipe Band	7	8	9 3-8 Cello Lessons	10
11 <u>7th Sunday after Pentecost</u> Benedict of Nursia, Abbott of Monte Cassino, 540 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Worship	12 Nathan Soderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, 1931	13 6-8 Pipe Band	14	15	16 3-8 Cello Lessons	17 Bartolomeo Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, 1566
18 <u>8th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	19	20 6-8 Pipe Band	21	22 <u>Mary Magdalene, Apostle</u>	23 Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, 1373 3-8 Cello Lessons	24
25 <u>9th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	26 <u>James, Apostle</u>	27 6-8 Pipe Band 7:00 Property Committee	28 J.S. Bach, 1750; Heinrich Schutz, 1672, G.F. Handel, 1759; musicians	29 Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, 1030	30	31

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>10th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	2	3 6-8 Pipe Band	4	5	6 3-8 Cello Lessons	7
8 <u>11th Sunday after Pentecost</u> Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221 8:30 Outdoor Communion 10:30 Worship	9	10 Lawrence, deacon martyr, 258 6-8 Pipe Band	11 Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, 1253	12	13 Florence Nightengale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society 3-8 Cello Lessons	14 Maximilian Kolbe, 1941; Kaj Munk, 1944; martyrs
15 <u>12th Sunday after Pentecost</u> <u>Mary, Mother of Our Lord</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	16 7:00 Church Council	17 6-8 Pipe Band	18	19	20 Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153 3-8 Cello Lessons	21
22 <u>13th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	23	24 <u>Bartholomew, Apostle</u> 6-8 Pipe Band 7:00 Property Committee	25	26	27 3-8 Cello Lessons	28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430; Moses the Black, monk, martyr, 400
29 <u>14th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Worship	30	31 6-8 Pipe Band				



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

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