

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – July/August 2022

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

The recent decisions coming from the Supreme Court appear to be calling into question principles of constitutional interpretation that have been in place for ages. Laws that have been accepted for over a century are now being called into question, and sometimes deemed unconstitutional. While many see politicization at the root of it all, the central issue is how to interpret a document, the root of which comes to us from centuries ago. I am by no means a constitutional scholar, but I believe the nation's founders created the constitution to be a living document. The amendment process allows changes to be made as necessary. However, the last time our constitution was amended was with the 26th Amendment, which went into effect in July 1971. The world has changed a lot in 51 years! At a personal level I am deeply concerned about the power dynamics currently driving our nation. But my personal feelings are just that.

How to interpret the Constitution opens the door for questioning how to interpret Christian scripture. Unlike the Constitution, which is changeable, our scriptures are not. Since the Bible does not change how do we interpret it? What should our guiding principles be? If the world has changed a lot since our Constitution was last amended, how much more has the world changed since the latest parts of the Bible were written?!? The youngest parts of our Bible come to us from late in the first century. The oldest parts are more than 1100 years older than that!

Biblical interpretation is very imprecise at best. That is actually at the heart of our faith. Much of Jesus' ministry was about undoing the precision many religious leaders of his day sought to have. He challenged them to see the spirit of the law and not the letter of the law. He challenged them to live by the principles of God's love and grace; not by legalism.

The Bible is an enormous book. It is highly complex. And it contradicts itself countless times. Even within the New Testament we find countless contradictions. In fact, even within St. Paul's own writings we find contradictions! When you combine those contradictions with the sheer age of it all you may be tempted to just

chuck the whole thing out. In fact many do! Or they see it as a leftover from the ignorant past. Such approaches are mistakes.

On of my seminary professors, Dr. Richard Nelson, described the Bible as, "humanity's attempt to grasp the ungraspable." Indeed, try as we might, we simply cannot put the truth of God's existence into words. Not only that, we cannot put the truth of God into the limits of human reason. When we talk about God, or think about God, or read about God, we truly are trying to grasp the ungraspable!

And yet Christians have always held the Bible to be God's inspired word for our faith. It does contain the truth that God intends for us to have. How are we to interpret it?

Perhaps "interpret" is the wrong concept to use. Perhaps I should say, how do we "live" the truth about God that it teaches? How are we then to shape our lives from what we discover? The Bible does not give us clear cut straightforward answers, though many insist that it does. No, the Bible takes us into the faith struggles of our ancestors. In so doing it connects us on a dynamic journey. It invites us to walk with our own life issues along side the lives who have gone before us. There we discover God's grace and God's will. The ultimate truths we discover are what St. Paul tells the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13): Faith, Hope, and Love. We build from there. That gives rise to incredible and beautiful diversity; which is what I think God's had in mind all along.

As for the Constitution, it needs to be able to be interpreted with precision. As for the Bible, it's power comes through its in-built imprecision. Regardless of how the courts interpret our laws, we as Christians live the Bible's calling to be people of faith, hope, and love. Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school will resume in September with a course from 1517 academy on the Lutheran understanding of vocation. Vocation is more than a career. It is about understanding who God created you to be and how you apply it in the world in which we live.

Worship

July Worship Assistants

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Greeters & Ushers	Gary Wood	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson	Helen Crown
Lector (8:30)					
Acolyte	Owen Young	Creed White	Thomas Bullwinkle	Owen Young	Creed White
Altar Care (10:30)	Linda Thompson		Linda Thompson		
Communion Assistants	Gary Wood		Mary Zuege		
Counters	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Beth and Molly Perdan	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	Tom Kurilovitch & Helen Crown	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour					

August Worship Assistants

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Greeters & Ushers	Linda Flood	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Gary Wood	Bruce & Connie Stevenson
Lector (8:30)				
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Owen Young	Creed White	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau	
Communion Assistants	Adele Garvey		Nancy Shuler	
Counters	This month's list is yet to be created			
Coffee Hour				



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

In June we begin the Pentecost season. Our gospel readings will be from the central third of Luke's gospel. We're journeying with Jesus as he is on the road to Jerusalem.

7/3 Luke 12:1-13:9
 7/10 Luke 13:10-35
 7/17 Luke 14:1-24
 7/24 Luke 14:25-35

7/31 Luke 15:1-32
 8/7 Luke 16
 8/14 Luke 17:1-10
 8/21 Luke 17:11-19
 8/28 Luke 17:20-37

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

*Thank
you*



- Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the lawn in June.
- Thank you to Katy and Bill Stimmel for organizing the coffee hour for Confirmation.
- Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Maggie's Kids camp.
- =Thank you to Connie and Bruce Stevenson for their work on the church landscaping.
- Thank you to everyone who has been keeping up the flower beds and gardens around the church.
- Thank you to all our Sunday school teachers for a great 2021-22 school year!

Prayer 
Request

- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.
- David Storch as he shows increasing signs of dementia and moved into a memory care facility.
- The family and friends of Curt Stromstad as they mourn his death.



Bed Race 2022

JUMP INTO YOUR JAMMIES!!!!

Get ready for the bed race.

Yes! After the 2- year hiatus for the PLAGUE, the Great Amazing Family Promise Bed Race is back on! Yippee!! The race will take place at the City Pier on Saturday, July 30. We are aiming to have 2 teams in the race: 18

years old and over and younger than 18. Keep your eyes and ears perked up for more information. We are looking for "racers" as well as capable adults to tweak the existing bed. Please contact Mary Zuege 315-986-2015 dushenkom@yahoo.com or Pastor Jon to sign up for the fun. Community Outreach Committee



MAGGIE'S KIDS SUMMER DAY CAMP at St. John's – Monday, July 11

Maggies Kids Day is July 11th. Please have your supply items at church by July 3rd. (The yogurts should be placed in the refrigerator.) Thanks so much to everyone that brought in supplies, gave monetary donations and volunteered /helped that day. We could not do this without your support.

Red Cross Blood Drive Results

Hello Premier Partners. St. John's held its 20th blood drive on June 6. 28 units were collected at this drive. Did you know that so far 614 units of life-giving blood have been collected at 888 County Rd #9? That may have positively impacted 1842 lives.....WOW!!!



Garden Project Update

The potatoes, pumpkins, and sweet corn are all doing relatively well. The potato beetles have come out stronger and earlier than in previous years. We're keeping up with them but they have destroyed a good number of plants. Our cultivator is able to take care of most of the weeding but some hand weeding is still needed. Thank you to everyone who is helping with that. Please talk to Pastor Jon if you'd like to help.

Service (Cont.)

Food Cupboard

School Supplies Collection

The Victor Farmington Food Cupboard is putting together school supply kits for local children. We have been asked to focus on Grades 2-3. Kits are due at the beginning of August. You may contribute an entire kit or just parts. Here is a list of what those kits include:

24 sharpened pencils	24 count crayons
Pencil sharpener	3-pack erasers
1 wide-ruled notebook (blue, red, yellow)	Plastic pocket folders
1 spiral notebook	2-4 glue sticks
1 pkg. highlighters	2 no-odor dry erase markers
1 pkg. colored pencils (fine)	1 pkg. colored markers
1 pkg. colored markers (broad)	1 pkg. index cards

Nuts and Bolts



Church Playground

Can & Bottle Collection Continues

We continue collecting deposit cans and bottles for replacing the playground. We have collected \$1900 so far and would like to collect \$1100 more by the end of summer. We hope to order the playground in the next couple of months.

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.)

June Council Highlights

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

- Reviewing committee reports.
- Current cash flow issues.
- Reviewing the church website and social media presence.
- Discussing the youth director position and moving forward with St. Paul's in Pittsford to hire someone together.

Fun



June Bible Trivia Answers

1. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan what two people pass by the injured man before he is helped? Answer: A priest and a Levite (Luke 10:31-32)
2. In the story of Mary and Martha which of these sisters was busy with housework? Answer: Martha (Luke 10:40)
3. Who asks Jesus about how to pray which in turn Jesus replies with the Lord's Prayer? Answer: the disciples (Luke 11:1)
4. Jesus cites the actions of Jonah. To what city was Jonah sent? Answer: Nineveh (Luke 11:30)

July/August Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the gospel readings chosen for worship in July and August.

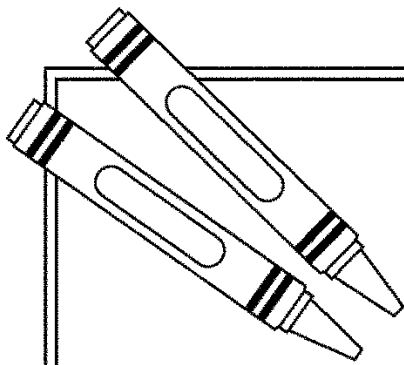
1. In the parable of the barren fig tree how many years has the owner come looking for fruit on the tree?
2. There is a collection of Parables about lost things in Luke 15. The first is a loss of one sheep out of a hundred. The second is a loss of one coin out of time. The third is one son out of...?
3. In the parable of the rich fool what does he do to his barns to store more grain?
4. In the parable of the dishonest manager what does he do to win people's favor?

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <u>4th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	4 <u>Independence Day</u>	5 3-6 Music Lessons	6 3-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	7	8	9
10 <u>5th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word Confirmation Camp	11 2-6:30 Music Lessons Maggie's Kids Day at church Confirmation Camp	12 3-6 Music Lessons Confirmation Camp	13 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous Confirmation Camp	14 Confirmation Camp	15 Confirmation Camp	16
17 <u>6th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	18 2-6:30 Music Lessons	19 3-6 Music Lessons	20 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	22	22 <u>Mary Magdalene, Apostle</u>	23
24 <u>7th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion 31 <u>8th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Otdr Worship 10:30 Worship	25 2-6:30 Music Lessons	26 3-6 Music Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	27 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	28	29	30 Family Promise Bed Race

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Red Cross Blood Drive 2-6:30 Music Lessons	2 3-6 Music Lessons	3 3-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	4	5	6
7 <u>9th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	8 2-6:30 Music Lessons	9 3-6 Music Lessons	10 3-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	11	12	13
14 <u>10th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	15 2-6:30 Music Lessons 7:00 Church Council	16 3-6 Music Lessons	17 4-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	18	19	20
21 <u>11th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	22 2-6:30 Music Lessons	23 3-6 Music Lessons	24 3-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	25	26	27
28 <u>12th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	29 2-6:30 Music Lessons	30 3-6 Music Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	31 3-7 Music Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous			



Just for KIDS

Summer is a good time to sit under a tree with a good book. Find the names of the books below. On each line write the letter that comes after the one given below it.



1. M a _ _ _ _
L _ _ s _ s _ g _ d _ v _

2. _ a _ _ _ _
C _ _ m _ h _ d _ k _

3. _ _ _ _
D _ r _ s _ g _ d _ q _

4. _ _ _ _
D _ w _ n _ c _ t _ r _

5. _ _ _ a _
I _ n _ m _ g _

6. _ _ _ _
O _ q _ n _ u _ d _ q _ a _ r _

7. _ _ _ _
F _ d _ m _ d _ r _ h _ r _

1.
A baby is born in a stable.
Jesus feeds 5000 with 2 fish and 5 loaves.
A man dies and comes back to life.

2.
A man interprets dreams and is also thrown into a lions' den.

3.
The Queen of Persia saves her people from evil Haman.

4.
A burning bush.
Ten plagues.
Ten special laws.

6.
Advice to live by.

5.
A man is swallowed by a fish.

7.
The creation.
A beautiful garden.
A great flood.

Where can you find all of these books?

_ _ _ _ _
H _ m _ x _ n _ t _ q _ A _ h _ a _ k _ d _ !



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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