

# On Eagle's Wings



## St. John's Monthly Newsletter – June 2021

### Growth

#### Pastor's Paragraphs

You are certainly aware that the Center for Disease Control recently released new guidelines saying that those who are vaccinated need not wear masks and may return to most normal activities. They say this loosening of regulations is based on scientific research. While I am certain there is indeed solid science behind their recommendations, most experts I have heard suggest that it would actually be best to continue wearing masks for a least a little while longer.

I suspect the change in guidelines is actually a mix of factors. Indeed there is science behind it, but it is also a carrot to entice more people to be vaccinated. It's a good carrot to use given that the vaccination rate is declining. There's also a practical bit to it. If you're someone who's been vaccinated you have every reason to have the question in your mind, "What was the point of being vaccinated if I can't get back to normal life?" I'm also quite certain the political problems of our state's governor are also coming into play for New York.

Where does that put us as a congregation? What should we do? Our church council has decided we will continue with the practices we already have in place. The seats will be spread out for worship. The service will continue to be altered to maintain more social distancing. Coffee hour will continue with prepackaged food. We'll encourage singing only softly. And we encourage people to wear masks; especially when coming and going from the building.

Why are we keeping these guidelines? Here is where we see our Christian thinking coming into play. We take into account:

- (1) science [the critical analysis skills God gave us]
- (2) government regulations
- (3) what we are called to be as a community [safe, open, and welcoming for all]

From there we create a plan. Our plan allows for togetherness. It also recognizes that many in our congregation are not eligible for vaccination. We want people of all ages to be able to safely gather for worship. So, even if I am vaccinated, I respect the situation of someone who is not. St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth about shaping worship so that the greatest

number of people can fully participate (1 Corinthians 11). He also wrote, "Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other." (1 Corinthians 10:24)

I know we are all tired of this pandemic. We want to be free and get back to normal. With a mix of careful behavior and vaccines things continue improving. We need to stick with it for a little while longer yet and then we should be through. Until then we live, not for ourselves, but for the betterment of each other.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

### Worship



#### Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

We continue our summer worship series on the Old Testament prophets in June.

June 6 – Amos 2:6-8, 4:1-3

June 13 – Obadiah

June 20 – Micah 2

June 27 – Isaiah 6

#### 8:30 Worship Outside

The 8:30 worship service will move to 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 In-person worship in the sanctuary, 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. 929 436 2866 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 834 9025 1842  
Password: 778805

## Service

### Garden Project

It's time to get the 2021 garden started! Planting is planned for Tuesday, May 25 starting at 6:00pm. We'll plant the usual potatoes, sweet corn, watermelons, and pumpkins. We'll be experimenting with a new way of growing pumpkins that should mean cleaner pumpkins and less weeding. If you'd like to help with maintaining the garden over the summer months please talk to Pastor Jon. There will be some hand weeding of course, but we need tractor drivers for the cultivator, also people to help with harvesting sweet corn and watermelons.

### 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 Bruce Stevenson and John CiPollina for overseeing various property repairs.
- Thank you to Ted Bair for repairing the plaster in the Fellowship Hall.
- Thank you to Karen Spawton for arranging special music for worship.
- Thank you to those who gave altar flowers in May.
- Thank you to Julie Stuart for arranging coffee hour.
- Thank you to everyone who mowed the lawn in May.
- Thank you Jim Spawton and Gary Wood for helping lead worship on May 16 when Pastor Jon was away.



- 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, who recently moved to Georgia to be closer to his son.

- 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.

## Nuts and Bolts

### May Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on May 17. Reports were received from most of the committees. Highlights include:

- Nathan Cheung, our pianist, has accepted a job in Indiana. He will be leaving the New York in July. The Worship and Music Committee will review the pianist job description and begin interviewing candidates.
- The water retention ponds on the property were inspected and passed without needing work.

Business items included a building use request, approving Rudy Stroup and Jacob Kurilovitch for confirmation, and reviewing our mask wearing expectations for worship.

### May Financials

YTD Income \$86,180.00  
YTD Expenses \$70,159.61  
Difference \$16,020.39

## Fun

### May Bible Trivia Answers

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

1. What is the "new commandment" Jesus gives?  
Answer: Love one another (John 13:34)
2. Who said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Answer: Thomas (John 14:5)
3. Where were the disciples on Pentecost when the Spirit came upon them in a dramatic way? Answer: Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-5)
4. What is the strange name the prophet Hosea gives his first daughter? Answer: Not Pitied (Hosea 1:6)

### June Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What does Amos call the women of Bashan?
2. What tiny nation does Obadiah prophesy against?
3. What six winged creatures does Isaiah envision flying around the throne of God?
4. In Isaiah's vision of God's throne room what is put on the prophet's lips to cleanse his words?

# JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Justin, Martyr at Rome, 165  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band	<b>2</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast	<b>3</b> The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886  1:00 Women's Bible Study  Synod Assembly	<b>4</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons  Synod Assembly	<b>5</b> Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, 754   Synod Assembly
<b>6</b> <u>2nd Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>7</b> Seattle, Chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, 1866  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>8</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band	<b>9</b> Columba, 597; Aidan, 651; Bede, 735, renewers of the church 8:30 Men's Breakfast	<b>10</b>  1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>11</b> <u>Barnabus, Apostle</u>  3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <u>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Communion 10:30 Worship  3-6 Piano Recital	<b>14</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>15</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Emanuel Nine, Martyrs 2015  1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>18</b>  3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <u>4th Sunday after Pentecost</u> <u>Father's Day</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>21</b> Onesimus Nesib, translator, evangelist, 1931  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	<b>22</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7:00 Property Committee	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <u>John the Baptist</u>  1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>25</b> Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530  3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <u>5th Sunday After Pentecost</u> Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, 444 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	<b>28</b> Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, 202	<b>29</b> <u>Peter and Paul, Apostles</u>  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band	<b>30</b>			



# **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.*

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**June Newsletter**