

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – June 2026

Pastor's Paragraphs

Living a “leased life”. What does that mean? I’m sure the idea is not original to me, but I’ve thought about the way much of what many people (especially young adults) have in their lives is leased. The average age of a first-time homebuyer is growing ever higher. I believe it is currently 38. That means that more and more people are leasing their living spaces. The price of cars is becoming astronomical. So are repairs. Many people now lease their cars rather than paying cash or financing them through a loan. Not that long ago people would buy DVDs of movies and television shows. (VHS and Beta now feel like ancient history!) Now there are streaming services with just about everything you could imagine available. Similarly, people used to buy books, or borrow them from the library. Now most books are available online. Even borrowing something from the library can be a virtual loan that is read on a tablet or computer.

The cost of all of this leasing adds up. It seems that many people work full time jobs for years in order to afford everything that they have; and yet they don’t actually own anything! The moment the lease stops or payment isn’t made the thing disappears.

Perhaps I could say that not owning things is what Jesus would want. Did he not frequently tell people to sell their possessions, and often point out that he himself owned nothing? But that is a distortion of what Jesus taught. Whether you own something physically, or lease it, or have it in virtual form, it is still something that is under your control and has a price.

I appreciate the financial realities of many people, and that leasing can be an affordable way to live. But ultimately I think it is hurtful. Of what value is being alive if everything in your life is virtual? What can you count on if everything is actually owned by someone else? And significantly, how are we supposed to be good stewards of things if they aren’t actually ours? If everything is leased then everything is a transaction. When things are owned they can become objects that we care about.

As I said above, Jesus’ teachings about possessions give us many warnings. I’m not suggesting that a quest to own things is good. But I think that a leased life is a life of stress, poor stewardship, and lots of labor with no lasting value.

In the form of Jesus, God came to us in real, tangible, and enduring ways. Even if your finances force you into leasing many things, know that God’s sure presence is yours to truly possess. It is not leased. It is a gift that is always available.

God knows that a life where everything is virtual, or just a concept, is not solid. So God gives us solid things. Let me list some of them, and do not trivialize them for they are significant. God gives us worship – in person. We are to tangibly meet together regularly. God gives us the Bible, a large collection of teachings, laws, poetry, and stories about the struggles of our ancestors. God also gave us the sacraments: Baptism and Communion. In those acts God meets us in ordinary tangible things: water, wine, bread. We can see them, touch them, smell them, and taste them. There is nothing virtual. They are real.

What is even greater is that these tangible gifts of God are also everlasting. If we lease things they disappear as soon as we stop paying. If we own things, they still can break, wear out, or be destroyed. But God’s things endure eternally – truly solid forever. We rejoice in the solid life God gives us and look forward to the fulfillment of all of God’s promises.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



8:30 Worship Outdoors

The 8:30 worship service will begin using the Outdoor Chapel on May 31. Sometimes it is very sunny and hot on the benches. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair and sit in the shade. Also, please remember that the grass is often wet. You will want to wear appropriate shoes. If you are unable to walk to the chapel you are welcome to drive your car there, and even sit in your car during the service.

June Worship Assistants

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Greeters & Ushers	Janice Lockwood	Rob Stroup	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Elijah Young	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Linda Flood		Linda Flood	
Communion Assistants	Mary Zuege		Greg Zuege	
Counters	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Greg and Mary Zuege	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour				



Worship Readings for June

We'll conclude our read-through of Matthew's gospel in June. The final chapters are ones which cover Jesus' final words and actions before the Last Supper. Later in June we turn to our summer worship series on Hebrews. Hebrews may seem like a strange book. It uses many images and ideas that we are not used to. However, when we realize those things it becomes a powerful witness to dynamics of faith that we do not get otherwise.

- June 7 – Matthew 25:31-46
- June 14 – Matthew 26:1-16
- June 21 – Hebrews 1:1 – 2:4
- June 28 – Hebrews 2:5 – 3:6



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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82790182949?pwd=kWc27H9b1VhTH4flYIbb4ObrouDVtO.1>

Meeting ID: 827 9018 2949

Passcode: 131540

By phone:

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



Prayer Labyrinth Dedication

The prayer labyrinth in the northwest corner of the property is complete. We will dedicate it after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 24th. That's the Day of Pentecost. The bulletin that day will have an insert giving several ways to pray using a labyrinth.

Church Lawn Mowing

With the warmer weather arriving we are in the season of lawn mowing. If you are able, please consider signing up to mow the lawn some week. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. The mowers are very easy to use and training is available.



**THE TIME TO
GIVE BLOOD
IS NOW**

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is having a blood drive at church on Monday, June 1, from 12:15-7:15. Please go to redcrossblood.org to make an appointment.



- Thank you to everyone who helped at the property clean up day.
- Thank you to Greg Welch, Jim Spawton, Tom Urbanic, Art Fields, and John DeLeon for using the sawmill to mill the ash trees into lumber.
- Thank you to John Cipollina for fixing the lights on the sign and making other electrical repairs.
- Thank you to the men for coffee hour on Mother's Day.
- Thank you to all those who read the readings for the hymn sing.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for frequently providing treats for coffee hour.
- Thank you to the Thompsons for keeping tabs on the paper and kitchen supplies and ordering more as needed.
- Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for maintaining the plants throughout the building.



Prayer Requests

- Alex Clark, friend of the Shulers. He is a 38 year old father who was recently diagnosed with stomach and intestinal cancer.
- Paul Huber as he receives additional treatments to help with bone strength.
- The family and friends of Marilyn Bair as they mourn her death.
- Patty Anderson, niece of Bruce Stevenson, who has congestive heart failure, declining kidney function, and diabetes.
- Artorius DeRuyter, son of Whitney (Stevenson) DeRuyter who is two months old and has a heart condition which will be addressed with surgery in a few months.
- Lewey Emoge, nine-month-old acquaintance of Marci Zavacki, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Finances (through 4/30/26)

YTD Income \$57,461
 YTD Expenses \$61,889
 Difference \$(4,428)

The gap has widened somewhat since last month. Please remember to keep up with your giving. Also, thank you to the many volunteers and those who donate to keep our expenses below budget.



Garden Project 2026

The planting of the garden was delayed from May 18 because the ground was still too wet. We plan to plant as soon as things dry enough. It will be the usual potatoes, corn, and pumpkins. Check your email for announcements about the planting date. Once things are planted we'll turn our attention to weeding. Most of it is done with the tractor and cultivator. If you are able to help with operating the tractor, one of the cultivators, or one of the rototillers please be in touch with Pastor Jon.

May Council Highlights

- Church council held its monthly meeting on May 11. Major items on the agenda were:
- Website updates
 - Approving Thomas Bullwinkle for confirmation
 - Review of committee actions and needs



May Bible Trivia Answers

1. When Jesus is asked if taxes should be paid to the emperor, what coin is shown him? Answer: denarius (Matthew 22:19)
2. In the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, what do they have oil for? Answer: meeting the bridegroom (Matthew 25:6)
3. In the Parable of the Talents, how many slaves are given money by the master? Answer: 3 (Matthew 25:15)
4. Who is the only one who knows the end of time? Answer: The Father (Matthew 24:36)

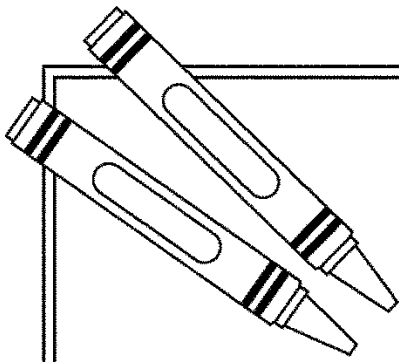
June Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. In what town was Jesus when the woman came and anointed him with an extravagant amount of ointment?
2. The disciples say the ointment in Question 1 should be sold and the money used for what purpose?
3. Who does Judas go to when he offers to betray Jesus?
4. The builder of all things is who?

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:15-7:15 Red Cross Blood Drive 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	3 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	4 11:00 Bible study at Lyons Church	5 2-7 Cello Lessons	6
7 <u>The Holy Trinity</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	8 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	10 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	11 10:00 Lyons Church Council 11:00 Bible study at Lyons Church	12 2-7 Cello Lessons	13 3:00 Piano Recital
14 <u>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> <u>Flag Day</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	15 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	17 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	18	19 2-7 Cello Lessons	20
21 <u>4th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	22 3-7 Violin Lessons	23 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	24 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	25	26 2-7 Cello Lessons	27
28 <u>5th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	29 <u>St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons	30 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons				



Just for **KIDS**

"And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds' And God saw it was good."

-Genesis 1:24-25

Unscramble these words to find names of animals that are found in the Bible.

ntalepoe _____ Deuteronomy 14:5

cooircdle _____ Leviticus 11:30

prdleoa _____ Revelation 13:2

hpsee _____ Deuteronomy 14:5

zilrda _____ Leviticus 11:29

ttcael _____ Genesis 1:25

uomse _____ Leviticus 11:29

mealc _____ Genesis 12:16

oatg _____ Deuteronomy 14:5

rhsoe _____ 1 Kings 10:25

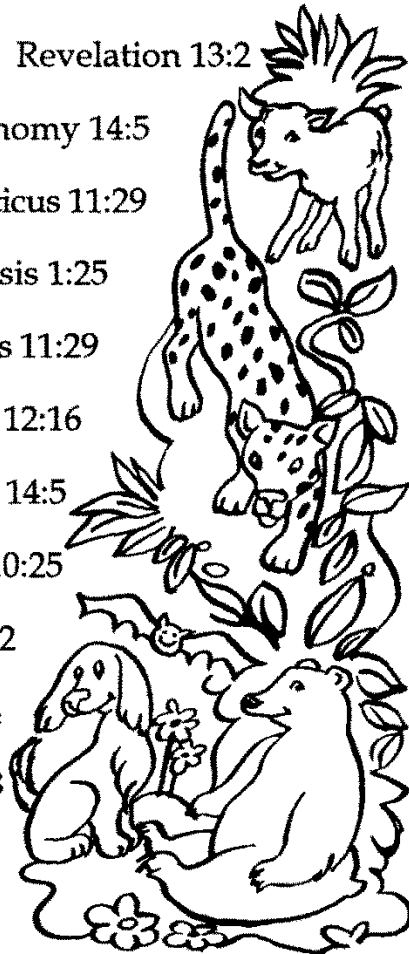
earb _____ Revelation 13:2

niol _____ 1 Samuel 17:34

abt _____ Deuteronomy 14:18

eap _____ 1 Kings 10:22

odg _____ Exodus 22:31





St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*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

June Newsletter

1 Red Cross Blood Drive