

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – March 2023

Pastor's Paragraphs

You may have seen the “He gets us” ads that ran during the Super Bowl. You may have seen them elsewhere too. At first thought it seems like the huge audience of the Super Bowl is the perfect time to proclaim the gospel. The ads used are simple, just black and white scenes from ordinary life. The message is, “He gets us”. Acceptance. Peace. Love. There’s no judgment. No condemnation. But the campaign has raised a lot of eyebrows. On the whole it seems to be backfiring. It is not drawing people towards Jesus but pushing them away. The question has certainly been raised, is it a good idea to spend so much money on a TV campaign when that money could be used to help people elsewhere? I know little about the campaign, but it appears to be funded by people who’s views of Christianity I find troublesome. (It could be a bait and switch kind of thing.)

Regardless of the theology behind the ads, or if it is a good use of money, I find it to be a misguided approach. How did Jesus approach evangelism? How did the early church grow? It was always face-to-face, one person at a time. There were no ad campaigns, no press releases, no intentional mass gatherings. While all of those things can have their place, they are not our primary evangelism tool. Christian faith spreads by personal contact. It is when one person shares with another person something very simple and basic. That very simple thing is where you find your life’s meaning.

Churches too often think they have to compete with the splash and polish of high priced media. While it is true that we need to do things well, it is foolish to compete. Things with splash and polish are actually usually selling something that will not give lasting fulfillment. Lasting fulfillment is not flashy. It comes through authentic connection.

May you have the courage and the insight to spread the gospel through your personal day to day interactions. Be honest about who you are, and do not be afraid to share where your life gets its meaning.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Mid-Week Lenten Series

Wednesdays 6:00 Soup and Bread Dinner,
6:30 Worship



At some point in every Christian's life, they discover a question.

You know the kind.

Not like, “How are you?” Or, “What kind of toothpaste should I buy?”

But, like, *What really happens when we die?*

Or, *Why does this terrible stuff happen to people who do their best to follow God?*

Or, *How could God forgive me after what I've done?*

Or, *How do I know what God wants me to do next?*

You know. That kind of question.

Each week we'll wrestle with these questions with responses (but not necessarily answers!) from God's word.



8:30 Breakfast Church during Lent

Our 8:30 worship service will explore a “breakfast church” model during the season of Lent. Tables will be set up in the back of the sanctuary. Worship will begin with a hymn and a prayer. Then worshippers will serve themselves whatever delicious breakfast foods have been prepared for that morning. As they eat the scriptures will be read. There won't be so much of a sermon as an interactive reflection on the gospel reading. The service will wrap up with prayers and song. When there is communion it will be incorporated right into the meal.

March Worship Assistants

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Greeters & Ushers	John and Linda Thompson	Sue Kaufmann	Helen Crown	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Owen Young	Creed White	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Helen Crown		Helen Crown	
Communion Assistants	Greg Zuege		Sue Kaufmann	
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson	Bill and Katy Stimmel	John and Linda Thompson	Michele Myers and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour				



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

March 5 – Matthew 18

March 12 – Matthew 19-20

March 29 - Matthew 21-22

March 26 - Matthew 23-25

As we approach these weeks we may not read the whole thing during worship. We may do what we did in February, which was to cover only part in worship and email the rest of the chapter out mid-week.

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: 894 6565 2592

Passcode: 537281

Directory Update

Please note these updates for your church directory:

Anne Stromstad

5104 Hammocks Drive

Canandaigua NY 14424

Helen Thiel

6301 Malvern Lane

Hillsborough NC 27278-8807

Correct Mark Wyman's phone: 585 754-7862

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.



Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is becoming an annual tradition in our congregation's Lenten journey. If you have trouble giving something up for Lent, this will be your easiest discipline ever! There is a collection box in the Gathering Area for you to put your **dryer lint, used dryer sheets, old crayons and stubs of candles**. This worthless stuff (and somewhat gross) will be melted together and burnt on the fire at the sunrise service on Easter. This Lent give up your most worthless stuff so that God can turn it into heat and light!



- 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.
- Sterling Smith, relative of Becky Nohe, who has bladder cancer.
- Edward Zavacki, husband of Marcia Zavacki, as he returns home from rehabilitation.
- Kelly Carlson, friend of the CiPollinas, whose liver function is failing.
- The family and friends of Ivan Shuler as they mourn his death.



- Thank you to Rob Stroup for serving as the church treasurer and thank you to Dave Bullwinkle for serving as the financial secretary.
- Thank you to Wendy Sackett, Morgan Sackett, Jen White, and Trudy Wyman for organizing the Sunday school children's service.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with spreading salt in February to keep the parking lot from being icy.
- Thank you to everyone who provided food for the reception after Ivan Shuler's funeral. Also thank you to those who helped with set up and tear down.

From Ivan Shuler's Family

Dear St. John's Family,

I have been wrapped in a blanket of love by all of you. The prayers, phone calls, visits, contacts, offers of help have been overwhelming and so appreciated. As you know his diagnosis and death were not long enough for us to get our hearts and our heads wrapped around. He went quickly, which is what he wanted. He had completed any bucket list he may have had. We had 65+ years together, which we gave thanks for. Just the week before he was diagnosed, his great grandson, Finn were chasing one another on their hands and knees and laughing. We have always been blessed by our St. John's family. I look forward to serving there as long as I can. Blessings and love to you all..

Nancy, Steven, Robin, Cynthia, Mark, Colleen, Allison, Colby, Kate & Jim Barbour

Community Outreach Committee



This year's Souper Bowl collection was \$243.00. That money will be sent to the World Hunger appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

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.)



Sponsor Accessories for the New Playground

The new playground has been ordered! It will be installed sometime in the spring. We have received several donations toward buying the accessories for the playground. Thank you to everyone who has given! There are still several things left to sponsor. Here's the list:

Angled Climber	\$100
6' Torpedo Straight Slide	599
Lg Rock Wall	399

Please talk to Julie Stewart or Pastor Jon if you're interested in sponsoring an accessory.

February Council Highlights

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

-Election of Officers:

President – Christine Campbell

Vice-president – Gary Boisseau

Secretary - Wendy Sackett

Treasurer – Joe Pow

Financial Secretary – Julie Stuart

-Council Liaisons to committees:

Education – Wendy Sackett

Family Promise – Mary Zuege

Fellowship – Christine Campbell

Outreach – Linda Flood

Property – John CiPollina

Stewardship and Finance – Joe Pow

Worship and Music – Gary Boisseau

Youth – Julie Stuart



February Bible Trivia Answers

1. What did the disciples pluck on the Sabbath which caused them to be criticized by the Pharisees? Answer: Heads of grain (Matthew 12:1)
2. In the Parable of the Sower what happens to the seed that falls on the path? Answer: The birds eat it (Matthew 13:4)
3. In the Parable of the Pearl what does the merchant do when he finds the pearl of great value? Answer: Sells all that he has and buy it (Matthew 13:46)
4. How many loaves of bread does Jesus use to feed the 5000? Answer: Five (Matthew 14:17)

March Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All of the answers can be found in the gospel readings we'll use in worship during March.

1. How many times does Jesus tell Peter he should forgive?
2. What does Jesus tell the rich young man he must do for eternal life?
3. What is the pay for all the workers in the Parable of the Vineyard?
4. Who asks for James and John to sit at Jesus' left and right side in glory?

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship	2 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	3 3-8 Cello Lessons	4
5 <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	6 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	8 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship	9 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	10 3-8 Cello Lessons	11
12 <u>3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	13 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	15 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship	16 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	17 3-8 Cello Lessons	18
19 <u>4th Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	20 <u>Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	22 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship	23 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	24 3-8 Cello Lessons	25 9:00 Church Council Retreat
26 <u>5th Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	27 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee 7:00 Community Chorus	29 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship	30 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 67	31 3-8 Cello Lessons	



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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