

# On Eagle's Wings

## St. John's Monthly Newsletter – March 2024

### Pastor's Paragraphs

Daniel Defoe made this little poem based upon an old German phrase popularized by Martin Luther:

Whenever God erects a house of prayer,  
the devil always builds a chapel there;  
and 'twill be found, upon examination,  
the latter has the largest congregation.

(Luther's Works, Volume 21, Pg. 212)

Perhaps the Third Law of Physics (for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction) even applies to humanity!

It is a sad truth that everything that has potential for good is also twisted for bad. I've preached any number of sermons that point out that even our very best intentions cause problems down the road. For example, basic healthcare and vaccinations leads to lower infant mortality rates. But that just increases humanity's overpopulation of the earth! There is no way out of this. There never will be. And we humans are rarely acting at our best.

God is an infinite step ahead of us.

The Gospel of Mark, which we are reading in worship this year, points this out. While we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with Easter at the end of this month, Mark's gospel has minimal use for the resurrection. He doesn't even bother to include any appearances of Jesus after the resurrection! Instead, Mark is all about Good Friday – Jesus' death.

It would be wrong to say that for every bad action there is a corresponding good action, but Jesus' execution at the hands of humans is as bad as we can be. There is simply no way for the devil to turn Good Friday into anything worse! In the crucifixion God did not erect a house of prayer. God tore apart the fabric of reality as we know it! The devil could do no worse. Love, in its purest, most perfect form, was expressed. And evil couldn't turn it into something bad.

The Easter message is wonderful. God is triumphant! But that is an easy playground for the devil to build a chapel. Perhaps that is why Mark's gospel downplays it so much. Easter can go wrong more ways than we can imagine. And while we certainly need the resurrection (Mark's gospel doesn't deny that), Jesus' crucifixion creates the impossible bind for evil; which is its ultimate downfall.

So, while we continue to live in the impossible trap of sin, God has ultimately rescued us from it. We know full well that even the very our best actions will be twisted. But, we do them anyway as reflections of the love God has for us. It is by grace we are saved, not the value of our actions. And it is by grace that people turn to the love of God – which really is the only real hope we have. That is a very good hope indeed!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

### Mid-Week Lenten Series Bible Stories in Art

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



This year's mid-week Lenten worship is about Bible stories in art. Each week we'll read a different Bible story and then see how three artists from different times or cultures have depicted it in art. Stories to be covered include: The Road to Emmaus, The Good Samaritan, Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.

## March Worship Assistants

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Greeters & Ushers	Mary and Greg Zuege	Sue Kaufmann	Helen Crown	Tom and Carol Urbanic	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Emma Deibler		Emma Deibler	Emma Deibler	Emma Deibler
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau		Rob Stroup	Linda Flood	Christine Campbell
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann	John and Linda Thompson	Michele Myers and Helen Crown	Bill and Katy Stimmell
Coffee Hour					Easter – no coffee hour



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88302960070?pwd=ODJPQOU0L2lVdVVLc1FJZnZSZ2k3QT09>  
 Meeting ID: 883 0296 0070  
 Passcode: 612837

• +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

### Mark's Gospel Worship Series

In March we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem as we continue to read through Mark's gospel. We'll cover the events of Palm Sunday on March 10. That may seem a little odd. But that gives us more time to spend on the last few days before the crucifixion. A lot happens in those days! Here's what's planned:

March 3 – Mark 10:32-52

March 10 - Mark 11:1-19 (Sunday, Monday of Holy Week)

March 17– Mark 11:20-13:37 (Tuesday of Holy Week)

March 24 - (Palm Sunday) – Mark 14:1-11 (Wednesday of Holy Week)

March 28 (Maundy Thursday) – Mark 14:12-72

March 29 (Good Friday) – Mark 15

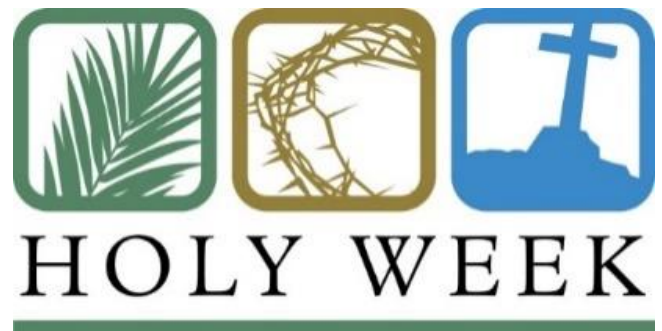
March 31 (Easter) - Mark 16:1-8



### 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.

Join Zoom Meeting



### Holy Week Schedule at a Glance

March 24 – Palm Sunday, procession with palms at 10:30, Easter egg hunt

March 28 – Maundy Thursday, seder meal with Holy Communion, 6pm

March 29 – Good Friday, 7:00 Worship

March 31 – Easter

6:00 Sunrise service of Holy Communion

9:00 Pancake Breakfast

10:30 Holy Communion

# Academy

## Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school is using the course Masks of God... the Lutheran Doctrine of Vocation. All are welcome to join the class. You can join in any week. The class meets in the first classroom on the left in the Sunday school wing.

## 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.

## St. Patrick's Day Potluck Food! Fun! Fellowship!!

Have you ever found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? No? Well, March 17<sup>th</sup> may be your lucky day. Please plan to enjoy a potluck lunch right here at church, right after the 10:30 service.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board by the fish tank. One is for how many attending and the other is what dish you may want to bring. (like we do at Thanksgiving).

Everyone is welcome at the table. Please come and enjoy a yummy lunch, good company, and conversation.

## Church Bulletin Bloopers Over the Years

Though we make mistakes in our worship bulletins, they aren't usually as big as these!

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation...
- For those of you who have children and don't know it,

we have a nursery downstairs.

- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM.. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours".

## Easter Egg Hunt Palm Sunday after the 10:30 Worship Service

This year's egg hunt will again have parts for both little kids and for middle and high school age youth. The little kids' hunt will be easy. The older youth will have to bring their clue solving abilities to discover the eggs well hidden throughout the church property.





March 28, 6pm  
Maundy Thursday  
Seder Meal  
A Salvation History

Join us for a very special Seder Meal for Maundy Thursday. Those gathered will engage in the rituals associated with the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples, the traditional foods and the meanings behind them will be presented, and an ancient song of deliverance will be sung. The meal will end with Holy Communion, pointing to the Lamb who has slain for us on the cross. (We will be substituting chicken for the traditional lamb dish.)



March 29, 7pm  
Good Friday  
Day of Victory Over Sin

Join us for a special Good Friday service. We will read from Mark's gospel what happens to Jesus on Good Friday. This service will be done by candlelight in darkness.



## Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is an annual tradition in our congregation's Lenten journey. This is the easiest thing to give up for Lent you will ever find! 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, once again give up your most worthless stuff so that God can turn it into heat and light!



## 8:30 Breakfast Church during Lent

Our 8:30 worship service will return to the "breakfast church" model during the season of Lent. Tables will be set up in the fellowship hall. 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 and the service continues from there.



## Prayer Requests

- 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.
- Kelly Carlson, friend of the CiPollinas, whose liver function is failing.
- Laurie Tallie, sister of Judy VanDevelde, who is recovering from lung surgery as part of cancer treatment.
- Becca (Boisseau) DeCann as she is again having heart rhythm issues.



## Eclipse Party

The long anticipated total solar eclipse takes place on the afternoon of April 8, 2024. We're planning a mystery lunch prior to the eclipse. You can then view the eclipse from the church property. You are welcome to invite friends and family. More information will follow.

## February Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Major items on the agenda were:

-Election of Officers:

President – Mark Wyman

Vice-president – Gary Boisseau

Secretary - Wendy Sackett

Treasurer – Wayne Young

Financial Secretary – Christine Campbell

-Council Liaisons to committees:

Education – Wendy Sackett

Family Promise – Mary Zuege

Fellowship – Mary Zuege

Outreach – Elizabeth Young

Property – John CiPollina

Stewardship and Finance – Gary Boisseau

Worship and Music – Greta Crowell

Youth – Elizabeth Young



## Easter Flower Orders

Help beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday by ordering a potted flower. After worship take it home to beautify your home. The flower types available are: tulips, hyacinths and lilies. Cost is \$8.00 per plant. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. The deadline to order is Palm Sunday. If you pay by check please make it out to St. John's.



-Thank you to everyone who helped with plowing snow in February.

-Thank you to Joe Pow II for his service on church council and his work as treasurer in 2023.

-Thank you to the Sunday school children for leading the 10:30 service on February 11.

-Thank you to everyone who provided coffee hour in February.

-Thank you to Julie Stuart for arranging the lunch for the annual meeting.



## February Bible Trivia Answers

1. When the disciples see Jesus walking on the sea what do they think it is? Answer: a ghost (Mark 6:49)
2. The Syrophenician woman who pesters Jesus was asking for healing for whom? Answer: her daughter (Mark 7:25)
3. What three disciples witnessed the transfiguration? Answer: Peter, James, and John (Mark 9:2)
4. What does Jesus tell the rich man he must do to receive eternal life? Answer: sell and give his possessions then follow Jesus (Mark 10:21)

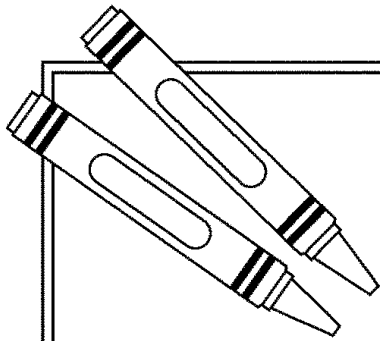
## March Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What two disciples ask to sit at Jesus' right and left when he is in glory?
2. Only one person who is healed in Mark's gospel is named. His name is?
3. On what does Jesus ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
4. How many coins does Jesus see the poor widow put into the treasury?

# March 2024






Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b> <u>Resurrection of Our Lord</u> 6:00 Sunrise Communion 9:00 Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Holy Communion					<b>1</b>      3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	<b>4</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>5</b>  1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>6</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>7</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>8</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>11</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>12</b>  1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>13</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>14</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>15</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <u>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 12:00 Potluck Lunch	<b>18</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> <u>Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord</u>  1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>20</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  6:00 Lenten Supper and Worship 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>21</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>22</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <u>Palm Sunday</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Easter Egg Hunt	<b>25</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>26</b>  1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	<b>27</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>28</b> <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons  6:00 Seder Meal	<b>29</b> <u>Good Friday</u>   7:00 Worship	<b>30</b>



# Just for KIDS

**In the spring the earth seems to explode  
with new life. It is a joyful time.  
God's creation blooms.**

Find this verse in the Bible that sounds and feels  
like this special time of year. Use the code below.

 = A     = E     = I     = U     = O

“Th\_ d\_s\_rt \_nd th\_  
p\_rch\_d l\_nd w\_ll b\_  
gl\_d; th\_ w\_ld\_rn\_ss  
w\_ll r\_j\_c \_nd bl\_ss\_m.  
L\_k\_ th\_ cr\_c\_s, \_t  
w\_ll b\_rst \_nt bl\_m;  
\_t w\_ll r\_j\_c gr\_tly  
\_nd sh\_t f\_r j\_y.”

Isaiah 35:1-2a



# **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**

888 County Rd. 9

Victor, NY 14564

The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

[www.stjohnsvictor.com](http://www.stjohnsvictor.com)

*Address Service Requested*

### **March Newsletter**

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