

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – May 2023

Pastor's Paragraphs

I encounter many people – in fact, most of the people I encounter – who consider themselves to be “spiritual but not religious.” This goes for people of all ages, not just youth and young adults. “Spiritual but not religious” is an interesting belief system. First, I do want to acknowledge the truth that many people have had bad experiences from organized religions. They find them to be judgmental, hypocritical, and out-of-touch. Those are fair criticisms to make. Yet I don't believe being “spiritual but not religious” is actually rooted in that.

I think it is rooted in... well, let's use the old Burger King slogan, “Your way, right away, now.” Or, perhaps it is a made-to-order belief system. They want the truths and moralities that suit them and they don't want to be bothered with demands and expectations that don't. If you're “spiritual but not religious” you don't have a community of faith that puts inconvenient demands upon your schedule or your money. You can do what you want when you want, and all without guilt or shame. I suppose from some perspectives it is the ultimate in self-actualization. In a way it is another version of the Adam and Eve story; where they wanted self-fulfillment on their own terms, rather than anyone else's.

I believe that such a belief system will fall apart under pressure. It is like the proverbial man who builds his house upon the sand. But those who have it don't realize it. As far as they are concerned they have the self-determination they need to feel good about themselves.

How do we handle this? And if Jesus calls us to spread the gospel, how do we witness to this vast number of people?

Well, first let's recognize that God is indeed working in and through many people who reject religious beliefs. We always need to accept that God is not bound by the boundaries that we may draw. We need to have a foundational respect for people regardless of how flawed their beliefs may appear to us.

From there we listen. We ask them about their faith story. What have their experiences been? What is it about religion that they don't like? If they are “spiritual” then they are not atheists (or agnostic). How have they experienced God? You'll learn a lot from these answers. They open lots of doors for witnessing. A very

important thing that can be learned is how to indeed authentically connect to their spirituality.

It can be tempting to try to convince them of the value of the church (especially if they are family members), but I'd recommend against that. A person needs to feel the movement of the Holy Spirit within themselves. You can't force it. Just genuinely let them be where they currently are.

At the same time, feel free to invite them to church events and activities – especially community service things. Our church creates many non-pressured ways for people to connect to “religion” – through service activities, through fun activities, through educational things, and through worship.

Ultimately faith is God's business. It is God's to create and God's to maintain. God will get people where they need to get. We keep all people in prayer. Our role is to be agents of that faith creatively connecting people to the depth of faith that truly is strong, and which does lead to hope, joy, and possibility. Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Ascension Day Worship 7pm

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 18. This is a major church holiday but usually gets overlooked completely. This year we'll celebrate it with a special worship service. If the weather permits, we'll start inside with a song and gathering dialog. Then we'll process to the outdoor chapel for Bible readings, a brief sermon, and a launch of model rockets. If you have a rocket you'd like to fly please bring it! A couple others will be made as well.

May Worship Assistants 10:30

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Greeters & Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Gary Wood	Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Owen Young	Creed White	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood		Mary Zuege	Greg Zuege
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann	John and Linda Thompson	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour				



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

May 10 – Matthew 5:17-48
 May 17 – Matthew 6:1-18
 May 24 – Matthew 6:19-7:12
 May 31 (Pentecost) – Matthew 7:13-28

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.

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
 Meeting ID: 872 6672 5691
 Passcode: 551860



-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.
 -Kelly Carlson, friend of the CiPollinas, whose liver function is failing.
 -Lane Boughton, friend of Babette Huber, who is recovering from quadruple bypass surgery.
 -The family and friends of Edward Zavacki as they mourn his death.



-Thank you to Jim Spawton and Gary Boisseau for leading the pancake breakfast on Easter.
 -Thank you to everyone who "gave up lint for Lent" and dropped off lint and wax for the fire at the sunrise service.
 -Thank you to everyone who helped with the playground groundbreaking.
 -Thank you to John Cipollina for various property repairs.
 -Thank you to Mark Wyman for taking photographs on Easter to update the family photo board.
 -Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday.
 -Thank you to the Sunday school kids for waving palms in the Palm Sunday procession.

Community Outreach Committee



SAVE THE DATE FOR MAGGIE'S KIDS –
Monday, July 10 is this date we will be hosting this year. We will again be providing breakfast and lunch for the campers. You will be getting information as the date gets closer. This is part of our Outreach when we participate in the week long day camp event for the kids from the Joseph Street area of the inner city coming to Victor visiting a different church each day. Contact Burdie Gillern if you have any questions.



Spring Clean-Up at Church

The annual spring clean-up day at church is planned for Saturday May 6th starting around 8:00am. There are several projects to do and many hands make light work. Projects include:

- Site preparation for the new playground.
- Pick up branches from the grass areas to facilitate mowing.
- Clean up gardens- general cleanup of the bed & mulch where needed
- Memorial Garden - General cleanup of debris, edge the bed
- Wash all the windows inside and out.

April Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on April 17th. Major items on the agenda were:

- Reviewing Holy Week and Easter activities.
- Review of church finances. We are behind on anticipated income thus far this year.
- Beginning work on a capital campaign to accomplish a couple projects and replenish the capital fund.
- Reestablishing the Fellowship Committee and creating some new events.
- Approved the Rev. Laurie Carson, a soon-to-be retired Lutheran Pastor, to use the Music Director's Office for several months.



Garden Project 2023

It's soon time to get this year's garden started! We'll again be planting potatoes, sweet corn, and pumpkins. Thrivent is funding the planting costs through their action team grants. We may be expanding the garden somewhat. The food cupboard has said they would gladly take more potatoes if we can raise them.

The ideal time to plant all of these things is the last week of May. Since weather conditions are unpredictable we can't set an exact date but we're aiming for Monday, May 22 starting around 5pm. Look to the weekly bulletin insert for specifics as we reach the end of May. Also, if you have plants or seeds from your own garden that you do not need, please consider donating them. As in years past we'll either donate the produce to the food cupboard or sell it to raise funds for World Hunger. Talk to Pastor Jon for more information.



April Bible Trivia Answers

1. What disciples sold Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver?
Answer: Judas (Matthew 26:14)
2. Where does Jesus go with the disciples after the Last Supper? (Where does his arrest take place?) Answer: Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36)
3. How many angels are at the tomb at the resurrection?
Answer: One (Matthew 28:2)
4. According to Matthew two women first went to the tomb on Easter morning. They both had the same first name. What was it? Answer: Mary (Matthew 28:1)

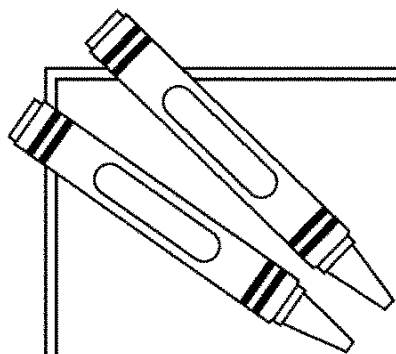
May Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings we will use in worship during May.

1. Jesus taught that when you give alms to not let your left hand do what?
2. Complete this sentence: "Where your treasure is..."
3. What happened to the man who built his house upon the rock?
4. The eye is the lamp of the what?

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <u>Philip and James, Apostles</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons	2 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	3 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	4 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study	5 3-8 Cello Lessons	6 8:00 Property Clean-Up Day
7 <u>5th Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	8 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	9 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	10 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	11 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study	12 3-8 Cello Lessons	13
14 <u>6th Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	15 <u>Matthias, Apostle</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	17 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	18 <u>Ascension Day</u> 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study	19 3-8 Cello Lessons	20
21 <u>7th Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	22 3-7 Violin Lessons 5:00 Garden Planting 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	24 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	25 10:00 Bible Study (at Lyons) 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:15 Women's Bible Study	26 3-8 Cello Lessons	27
28 <u>Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	29 <u>Memorial Day</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	30 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	31 <u>Visit of Mary to Elizabeth</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous			

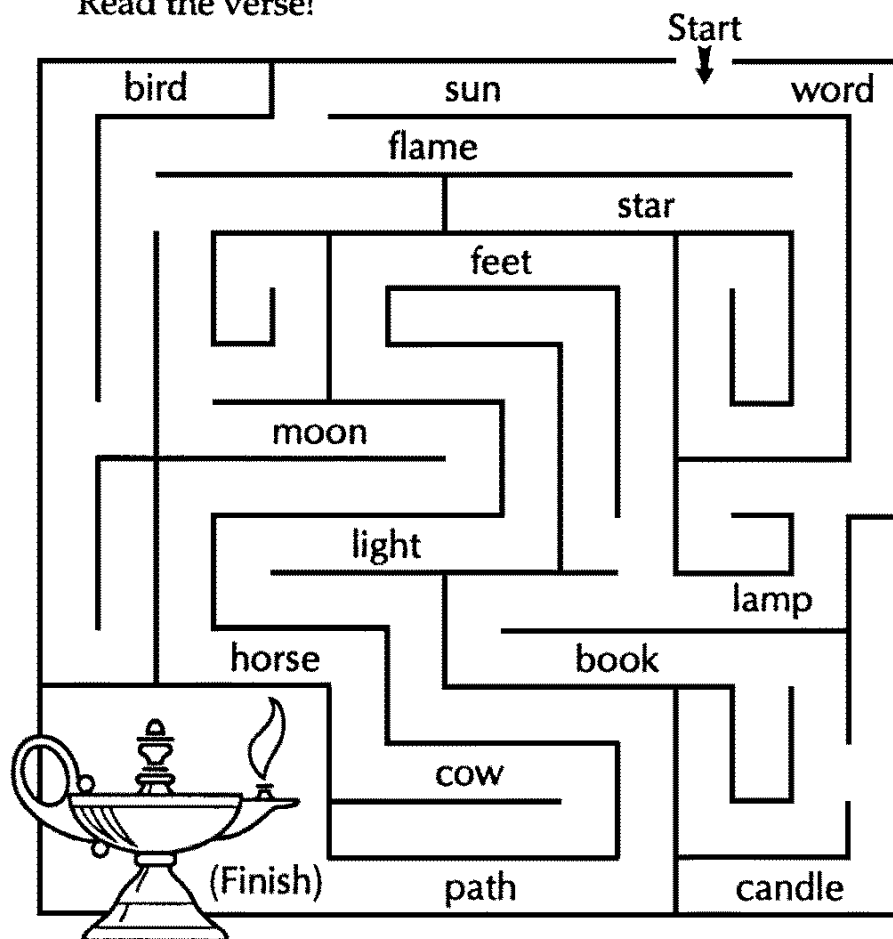


Just for KIDS

Do you ever feel all alone? Do you ever feel as if you need a map to get through the day?

Find your way through the maze below. Write the words from the *correct* path, in order, on the lines below.

Read the verse!



Your _____ is a _____ to my _____
and a _____ to my _____.

—Psalm 119:105



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

May Newsletter

May 18 Ascension Day