

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – May 2024

Pastor's Paragraphs

In my role as the dean of the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference I was recently asked to provide an “implicit bias awareness” training for the conference. These trainings are controversial. Your employer, or an organization you belong to, may have required you to take training like this; and perhaps other trainings about race and gender. I have certainly been required to attend plenty. They're usually pretty miserable. I find them to be filled with factual inaccuracies, questionable research, and broad generalizations. I find them to be counterproductive.

I thought that if I am to lead a training (And a controversial one at that!) I'm going to try to make it as productive and helpful as possible. I decided to seek out high quality research about implicit biases and apply it with good reasoning. That turned out to be a lot harder than I thought! Fortunately I did find some resources that were decent. But there weren't many. That took me down a side path. If issues of: race, gender, social class, age, etc. are of such importance to our society that we have to do all these trainings, then why am I finding so little solid information?

My searching took me to findings of the National Institute of Health (NIH). While findings from the NIH are also subject to biases and political pressures, they are at least critically vetted by a variety of scholars with different points of view. From what I found, I'm coming to the conclusion that those people who are the most driven by gender and race issues (whatever side they are on) often share the same measurable personality traits. Those traits are: low levels of agreeableness, high levels of judgmentalism, low levels of creativity, and high levels of close-mindedness. Here are links to a few of the studies:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8506218/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10658852/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3775550/>

If my conclusion is correct, then these are the last people who should be leading trainings and doing research! It's no wonder things are such a mess. It is as if these issues have become platforms for those who have the most disagreeable of personality traits to express themselves.

If our goal is to have a society where everyone has fair opportunities, a sense of personal agency (and responsibility), plus a willingness to work hard for the benefit of all, then we need to take a very different approach. There are no easy answers. These things are complicated. But overall I think we would solve the problems if we took the approach that we find in 2 Peter 1:5-8:

“For this very reason you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Ascension Day Worship 7pm

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 9. Last year we celebrated this major church holiday with a worship service. We will do the same again this year. 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.

Are You Caught Up On Your Pledge?

Over the course of the past several months, we have been seeing a decline in our income as compared with our expenses. Our ability to keep up with the church's financial commitments is very much dependent on each one of us meeting our pledges. So, if you could please take a moment to ensure that you're caught up on your pledge, that would be very helpful for us to pay the bills. Thank you.

May Worship Assistants

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Greeters & Ushers	Phyllis Hendeson	Linda Flood	Janice Lockwood	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Mary Zuege		Mary Zuege	
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann		Christine Campbell	
Counters	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour		Mother's Day		



Mark's Gospel Worship Series

In May we conclude our reading of Mark's gospel.

Here's what's planned:

May 5 – Mark 7:31-37

May 12 – Mark 8:1-13

May 19 – Acts 2:1-21 (Pentecost)

May 26 - Mark 8:14-26



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.

Meeting ID: 882 0747 6838

Passcode: 855326

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



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.



Garden Project 2024

If the weather cooperates we plan to have our major planting at the garden on Monday, May 20 starting around 5pm. We'll be planting potatoes, sweet corn, green beans, and pumpkins. Thrivent is funding the planting costs through their action team grants. We'll try out the new potato planting machine. It should make that back-breaking task much easier! 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.



Blessing of Seeds and Apple Trees

On Sunday May 19 at the 10:30 service we'll bless the seeds that will be planted in the church garden this year. Right after the 10:30 service we'll head to the newly planted apple trees in the orchard and dedicate them. Following that we'll cut the seed potatoes so they can "skin over" for planting on Monday evening.



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.
- Becca (Boisseau) DeCann as she is again having heart rhythm issues.
- Jacob Sussan, friend of the Boisseaus, who is 24 years old and is receiving treatments for Stage 3 colon cancer.
- Amy Farr, friend of the Boisseaus, who lives in North Carolina and is awaiting a lung transplant.
- Helen Crown as she recovers at home after a short stay in the hospital to address breathing issues.
- The family and friends of Walter Sackett, father of Kevin Sackett, as they mourn his death.

April Council Highlights

- Church council held a planning retreat on Saturday April 13 at the American Legion in Canandaigua. (Thank you to the Legion!) Major items on the agenda were:
- Plans for developing a prayer labyrinth in the northwest corner of the church property.
 - Developing the spirituality of the congregation.
 - Developing a calendar of service projects for the congregation.
 - Approved Linda Flood and Pete Gregory as our synod and conference assembly voting representatives.



- Thank you to the Canandaigua American Legion for hosting our church council retreat. And thank you to John Cipollina for organizing it.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for arranging the cleaning of the church pews and sanctuary carpet.
- Thank you to everyone who bought flowers for Easter.
- Thank you to everyone who helped to set up for the eclipse party.
- Thank you to Karen Spawton for organizing the special music for Palm Sunday and Easter. And thank you to everyone who sang.
- Thank you to Gary Boisseau and Jim Spawton for the Easter pancake breakfast.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with planting the new apple trees.



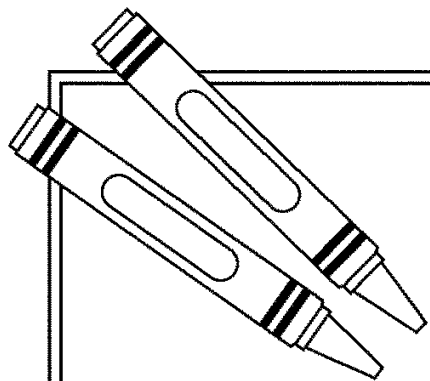
April Bible Trivia Answers

1. According to one of the alternate endings to Mark's gospel people will be able to do what deadly thing without hurting them?
2. When Jesus' says to the Syrophoenician woman, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." what has she asked him to do?
3. How many baskets of leftovers are there from the Feeding of the 4000? (different from the feeding of the 5000)
4. After Jesus' first attempt to cure the blind man from Bethsaida, the man says he sees people but they look like what?

May Bible Trivia Questions

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



























1. In the feeding of the 400 miracle how many baskets of leftovers are there?
2. What did Jesus put on the eyes of the blind man from Bethsaida to cure him?
3. What appears on the heads of those gathered at the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?
4. What prophet does Peter quote on Pentecost?
































Just for **KIDS**















Psalm 33:1-3














Use the code to find the words to this joyful song.

















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













                















           














             













            













               

May 2024

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



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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May Newsletter

20 Garden Planting