

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – May 2025

Pastor's Paragraphs

Why do we evangelize? Is it to grow a church so that the church has higher attendance and can pay its bills? That's the reason for many congregations! But that is not the root of evangelism. Evangelism is about spreading the good news of God's forgiveness and love. That's a hard sell these days. Many people don't think they need God, or if they do think they need God they don't think they need forgiveness. Yet their spiritual and communal needs are still real.

At the recent church council planning retreat we talked about the way family life has changed in the last several decades. We realized that many of our evangelism strategies are based on family dynamics that no longer exist. Sadly, there are no models of evangelism that are relevant to the lives of families today. Nevertheless, we are still called to spread the gospel and people still have spiritual needs.

The church council is aware of the role our church building and property plays in the lives of many people in the area. Neighborhood children fish in the ponds, play on the playground, learn to ride bike in the parking lot, and later learn to drive. Community groups use the building for meetings. Music teachers offer lessons. And not to be overlooked, many people use the property as a place for walking and meditation. The paved public walking trail that wraps on two sides of the church property puts many people in contact with the church land.

This reality is guiding us to create several "spiritual spaces" on the west side of the church property. Already existing in that area are: the memorial garden, the outdoor chapel, and the apple orchard. Each of these are interesting places where people spend time in contemplation and prayer. A new spiritual space to be built this year is a prayer labyrinth. It will be in the northwest corner. The gaga ball pit will be moved to be beside the playground. Signs will be put up letting people who walk by know of the existence of these spaces and invite them to use them. The prayer labyrinth will have its own sign describing its use. These spiritual spaces will be accessible to all people at any time. They can use them as their needs and schedules allow. None of this falls into the realm of traditional evangelism, but all of it fits into the church meeting the faith needs of its community.

I invite you to contribute to the construction of the labyrinth. We have a design that will require little maintenance and also not cost all that much to build. If you've ever seen or used a labyrinth you know that many designs require a lot of labor to maintain. Ours will be different. We intend to use 18 inch square paving stones for the labyrinth's paths and have the tops of the pavers be at ground level. The result will be that grass grows between the pavers and can simply be mowed across. The design will require approximately 210 paving stones at a cost of \$10 each. If everyone buys a few stones we'll easily have enough for the project. We're applying for a Thrivent Action Team grant as well.

Constructing the labyrinth should be fun. We're hoping Boy Scout 61 pitches in with the construction and it should go quickly. We'll look to create it late in the summer.

There is information about giving towards the project in the weekly bulletin insert. Talk to Mark Wyman, council president, or myself if you have any questions. Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Aerial view of the prayer labyrinth at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

May Worship Assistants

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Greeters & Ushers	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson	Sue Kaufmann	Linn Griffo and Morgan Sackett
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Emma Deibler		Emma Deibler	
Communion Assistants	Mary Zuege		Linda Flood	
Counters	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	Mary and Greg Zuege	Anne Stromstad & Michele Myers	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour				



Upcoming Bible Readings from Luke for Worship

The first week in May we'll conclude reading stories of Jesus' resurrection. For the remaining weeks we return to the chapters we skipped over for Holy Week. We'll see Jesus' public ministry grow to overwhelming size, but also learn that these tremendous crowds aren't really all that faithful.

5/4 Luke 24:36-53
 5/11 Luke 9:1-17
 5/18 Luke 9:18-27
 5/25 Luke 9:28-43a



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/85898911838?pwd=Ho0hGtKqSJAnRpugabpkQTuY73SbyK.1>
 Meeting ID: 858 9891 1838
 Passcode: 020293
 By phone:
 1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



Ascension Day Worship 7pm

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 29. 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.

Spring Cleanup Day

The spring cleanup day is planned for Saturday, May 3rd. Projects include clearing fallen trees, sprucing up the flower beds, repairing the bridge, and possibly replacing the cross in the outdoor chapel. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the gathering area.

Community Outreach

Maggie's Kids Summer Camp

We are hosting the Maggie's Kids summer camp at church on Monday, June 14th. More details will be in the June newsletter.



Garden Project 2025

If the weather cooperates we plan to have our major planting at the garden on Tuesday, 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 fertilizer applicator on the potato planting machine, and a new planter for the corn. 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.



-Thank you to Thomas Bullwinkle, Jim Spawton, and Gary Boisseau for leading worship when Pastor Jon was at the Lyon's church on March 30.

-Thank you to the Canandaigua American Legion for hosting the church council retreat.

-Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for trimming the shrubs and cleaning out the landscaping around the church building.

-Thank you to everyone who brought soup and bread for the Lenten suppers.

-Thank you to everyone who brought fruit or baked goods for the breakfast church services in Lent.

-Thank you to Emma Deibler for creating the egg hunt on Palm Sunday for older youth.



-David Storch as he lives in a memory care facility.

- Alex Clark, friend of the Shulers. He is a 38 year old father who was recently diagnosed with stomach and intestinal cancer.

-Marilyn Bair who is currently home and is improving slightly in health.

-Paul Huber as he recovers from a fall.

April Council Highlights

Church council held a special planning retreat on April 6th. Updates on projects from several committees were given. Special plans for 2025 are:

- creation of spiritual spaces on the west side of the property
- building clean out planned for the fall
- acquisition of some new equipment for youth, especially foosball and ping-pong



April Bible Trivia Answers

1. What holiday season was it that caused Jesus to go to Jerusalem with his disciples? Answer: Passover (Luke 22:1)
2. On what hill/mount did Jesus go to pray after his last supper with the disciples? Answer: The Mount of Olives (Luke 22:39)
3. What disciple handed Jesus over to the authorities? Answer: Judas (Luke 22:47)
4. Two of the women who went to the tomb on Easter had the same first name. What was it? Answer: Mary (Luke 24:10)

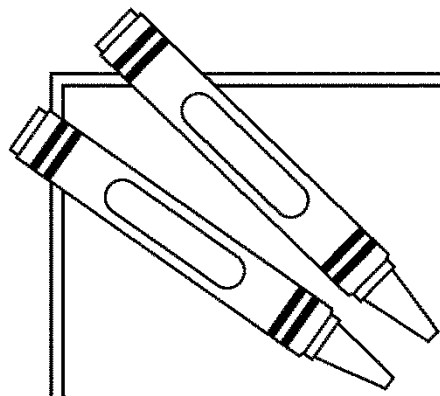
May Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers can be found in the Bible readings appointed for worship in May.

1. When Jesus asks the disciples who do people say that he is, which disciples recognizes him as the Messiah of God?
2. How many dwellings (or tents) does Peter offer to make at the Transfiguration?
3. What does Jesus eat in front of the disciples to prove that he was really resurrected?
4. What city are the disciples to stay in after the resurrection until they are, "clothed with power from on high"?

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>Philip and James, Apostles</u> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	2 3-8 Cello Lessons	3 Spring Cleanup Day
4 <u>3rd Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	5 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	7 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	8 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	9 3-8 Cello Lessons	10
11 <u>4th Sunday of Easter</u> <u>Mother's Day</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	12 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	15 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	16 3-8 Cello Lessons	17
18 <u>5th Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	19 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 5:00 Garden Planting 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	22 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	23 3-8 Cello Lessons	24
25 <u>6th Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	26 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	28 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	29 <u>Ascension Day</u> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons 7:00 Worship	30 3-8 Cello Lessons	31 Synod Assembly



Just for KIDS

In the book of Genesis, Chapters 6-9, we find the story about what happened to Noah. Read the clues and look at the pictures. Write the words in the boxes. The dark boxes will spell a word to write on the lines below.

1. The boat Noah built.
2. It fell from the sky for 40 days.
3. They were on the boat with the family and birds.
4. He built the boat.
5. How the people on earth behaved.
6. The bird Noah sent to see if the flood was over.
7. _____ of each creature were taken on the ark.

God's sign of his promise was a



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

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20 Garden Planting

29 Ascension Day Worship