

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – May 2026

Pastor's Paragraphs

I've written frequently in the monthly newsletter about the instability in our culture and nation. Many things we considered to be solid and secure now seem to be up for grabs. Anxiety is high and certainty is low. This goes for not just politics, but it also goes for families, occupations, education, and of course, the church.

I have two thoughts to add to what I have written before. One is to remember that, unstable as things may seem, we still enjoy a great deal of stability. Keep in your prayers the places in our world that live in war or chaos. There are so many that we easily forget. The current actions in Iran almost make us forget about Ukraine. The World Population Review lists forty nations currently at war. There are many people who do not know if they will live to see another day, or if they will still have a place to live tomorrow. Keep them in your prayers and give thanks to God for the stability we do enjoy.

Of course there is plenty of instability outside of war zones. Families can be embroiled in conflict. There can be backstabbing at work and people scheming to get ahead. Also, many people face medical conditions that are beyond their control. And there are many people who face financial insecurity no matter how hard they work. So the first thought is to give thanks to God for the stability that we do have in our lives.

The second thought is to remind us of the permanence of God's kingdom. In the midst of the chaos of our world God's kingdom stands secure and eternal. When things threaten to overwhelm you, remind yourself that they are only temporary. Also remind yourself that if you are living in God's kingdom the forces of this world that cause instability are likely to attack you. Evil likes chaos. It is an easy way to destroy much.

God has given us baptism and communion. These are permanent eternal actions that anchor us in God's kingdom. God has given us his Word. The Word is Jesus himself, and the scriptures testify to God's Word and actions throughout history. Though God is eternal, he values this temporal world too. And God has given us the Church. Not the "small c" church, but the "capital C" church. St. John's is a church. The Church of God is the gathering of the faithful from all times and all places. The Church is the past, present, and future. Before the

Church evil trembles. It cannot withstand the enduring power of God's community of faith. We are all part of it. The Church stands solid in the midst of all chaos. We find security in it, and we invite others into it always. That is the foundation of a solid life.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting on May 3rd immediately following the 10:30 worship service. This is to approve a few amendments to the church constitution. They are:

- the allowance of online participants at congregational meetings
- changing the church council size from nine to six
- changing the maximum amount the council is allowed to depart from budgeted expenditures from a set amount (currently \$3000) to a percentage of the anticipated receipts (3% is the amount proposed).

Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions.



Ascension Day Worship 6pm

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 14. We'll have our annual Ascension Day event, including: supper, brief worship, and a rocket launch. Things begin with supper at 6pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and choose which dinner item you would like. Dinner options include: grilled chicken and strawberry salad with almonds, honey mustard grilled chicken sandwich, or grilled chicken with rice and green beans.

May Worship Assistants

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Greeters & Ushers	Greg and Mary Zuege	John and Linda Thompson	Sue Kaufmann	Helen Crown	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care (10:30)			Linn Griffo	Linn Griffo	
Communion Assistants			Rob Stroup	Linda Flood	
Counters	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	Greg and Mary Zuege	Anne Stromstad & Michele Myers	Bill and Katy Stimmel	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour		Mother's Day		Confirmation Reception	



Worship Readings for May

In May we return to the portion of Matthew's gospel we skipped over at Easter. These are all events of Holy Week.

May 3 – Matthew 21:28 – 22:14

May 10 – Matthew 22:15-46

May 17 – Matthew 23

May 24 – (Pentecost) Matthew 24:1-44

May 31 – Matthew 24:45-25:30



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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82790182949?pwd=kWc27H9b1VhTH4flYlbb4ObrouDVtO.1>

Meeting ID: 827 9018 2949

Passcode: 131540

By phone:

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



Prayer Labyrinth Dedication

The prayer labyrinth in the northwest corner of the property is nearly complete. The only thing left to do is to sow grass seed. We will dedicate it after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 24th. That's the Day of Pentecost.



Summer Worship Series

We've been reading through Matthew's gospel this year. We will complete it on June 14. Over the last several years we have covered many parts of the Bible in worship, but certainly not all of it! If there is a book of the Bible you'd like us to explore for the summer or fall please talk to Pastor Jon.



Spring Cleanup Day

The spring cleanup day is planned for Saturday, May 2nd. 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.



Church Lumber Sawing

Try your hand at being a sawyer! (someone who operates a sawmill). Several ash trees on the church property died and have been taken down. After the congregational meeting on May 3rd we'll saw some of them into boards. You're invited to participate in the sawing. There are a great number of logs and we will be sawing other days as well. Some of the lumber will be used for projects at church and some will be available for you own use.

Church Lawn Mowing

With the warmer weather arriving we are in the season of lawn mowing. If you are able, please consider signing up to mow the lawn some week. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. The mowers are very easy to use and training is available.



- Thank you to Karen Spawton for organizing the special choir for Palm Sunday and Easter. Thanks also to Karen for playing organ on a hymn on Easter.
- Thank you to those who participated in the special choir for Palm Sunday and Easter.
- Thank you to Bruce Stevenson for organizing the annual service of our commercial lawn mower, and for transporting it to and from the dealer.
- Thank you to Gary Boisseau, Jim Spawton, Ben Deibler, Greta Crowell, and Linda Flood for helping to cook at the Easter brunch.
- Thank you to everyone who brought food for the Maundy Thursday dinner worship.



Prayer Requests

- Alex Clark, friend of the Shulers. He is a 38 year old father who was recently diagnosed with stomach and intestinal cancer.
- Paul Huber as he receives additional treatments to help with bone strength.
- Marilyn Bair who is weak and needs regular care.
- Patty Anderson, niece of Bruce Stevenson, who has congestive heart failure, declining kidney function, and diabetes.
- Pat Eddy, neighbor of the Zueges, who is on hospice care.
- The family and friends of Robert Wyman, Mark Wyman's father, as they mourn his death.
- Lewey Emoge, nine-month-old acquaintance of Marci Zavacki, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

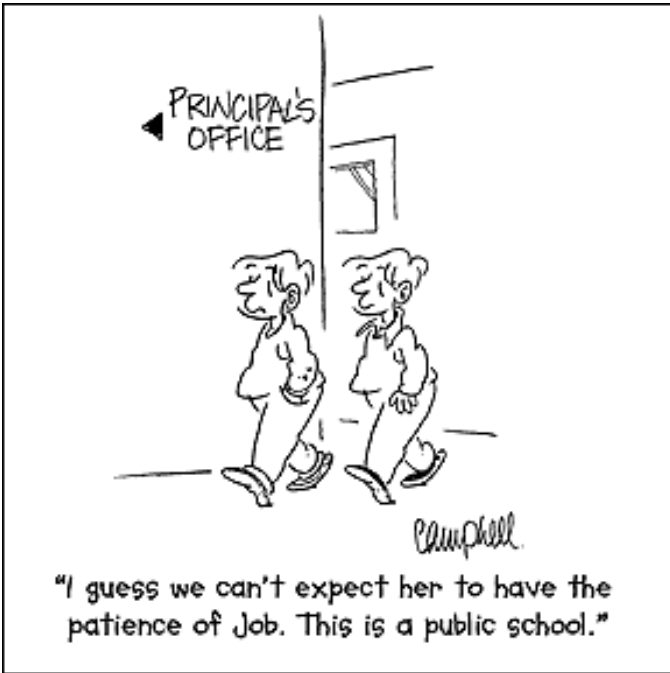
Finances (through 3/31/26)

YTD Income \$42,659

YTD Expenses \$46,826

Difference \$(4,168)

We have closed the gap somewhat since last month. Thank you to those who continue to give generously.



April Council Highlights

Church council held its monthly meeting on April 13. A couple guests attended and shared concerns about declining worship attendance and church commitment.

Major items on the agenda were:

- Review of the proposed constitutional amendments
- Review of updates for the website
- Approval of Pete Gregory and Linda Flood to serve as our voting representatives to the 2026 synod assembly
- Discussion about hosing the Victor Clothes Closet in our building
- Review of committee actions and needs



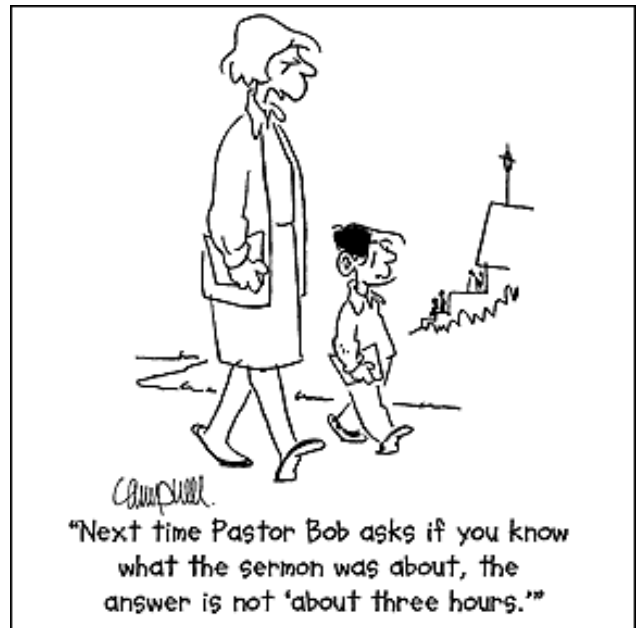
April Bible Trivia Questions

1. How many times does Peter deny that he knows Jesus? Answer: 3 (Matthew 26:75)
2. Which disciple hands Jesus over to the authorities? Answer: Judas (Matthew 26:47)
3. Where is Jesus when he is arrested? Answer: Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36)
4. What was the name of the person Pontus Pilate offered to release instead of Jesus? Answer: Barabbas (Matthew 27:16)

May Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. When Jesus is asked if taxes should be paid to the emperor, what coin is shown him?
2. In the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, what do they have oil for?
3. In the Parable of the Talents, how many slaves are given money by the master?
4. Who is the only one who knows the end of time?



May 2026

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



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

888 County Rd. 9

Victor, NY 14564

The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

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