

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – November 2022

## Growth

### Pastor's Paragraphs

In October and November we are reading through the "Pastoral Epistles" (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus) during worship. These are controversial books of the Bible. Some of the teaching seem odd. Some of the teachings have caused great harm to many people over the centuries. They have been used to justify slavery, make women second class beings, and support racism.

Reading through them in worship is a daring thing to do, but I think it is good for us to do it. The Bible is not a simple answer book to all of life's questions. It is the Spirit-inspired struggles of our faith ancestors as they have tried to grasp God; which is basically trying to grasp the ungraspable.

The Bible must always be kept in context. I don't just mean keeping a verse or phrase in its larger context. I mean understand the cultural context into which it is written. I do not believe any of the biblical authors intended their writings to cause harm or to make people feel any less than the good and whole creations God has made people to be.

Keeping the Bible in its context does not mean we can just chuck parts of it out because we think it is a product of the past. Every generation believes it has somehow gotten a better grasp of the truth than previous generations. It believes it can right the wrongs of past ignorance. Indeed, there are many things in the past that were wrong and need to be corrected. But every generation needs to remember that it has its own innumerable blind spots as well.

Keeping the Bible in its context means that you understand and deeply value how God comes to us. Something that makes Christianity unique among the world's religious belief systems is the incarnation – the belief that the real historical person Jesus of Nazareth was fully God and fully human. While other religions have ideas that a god, or divine beings, could come to take human form, none have the idea of God taking human form for a lifetime; and then dying as the ultimate statement of power. Remember, Jesus often told his followers not to believe in him because of his miraculous powers. He tried to minimize them. But he

did tell his followers to take up their crosses and follow him. That's not something they could understand until it happened, but only afterward.

The point is this. God did not give us a list of rules or laws to follow – universal and absolute rules that apply for all times and places. (The life of Jesus wouldn't have been necessary if God wanted to do that!) God came to us deeply rooted in the context of the Roman empire in what we have named the "first century". When we can understand the dynamics of that world, and how Jesus related to that, we learn the abiding principles that can be applied for all other times and places.

Christianity does not give a neat and tidy belief system for those who want their faith to be simplistic. It will however give us solid beliefs to navigate the complex messiness of life. What might be the right solution for today may not be the right solution for tomorrow. For example, any parent knows that giving a four-year-old a "time out" in a chair might be good discipline. That's probably not going to work with a 17 year old!

We will read through 2 Timothy and Titus in November. We're going to encounter more teachings that are strange. And some will be offensive. I hope we can all learn from these struggles of the early Christians and use their struggles to grow for our own lives. They, like us, are part of the ongoing work of God's Church. And they, like us, are in the grasp of God's Spirit being drawn forward into the fullness of time. The journey will not be easy. Nor will it be fair. But it will be a journey worth taking.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

### Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school has changed course and will begin using the Netflix series *The Good Place*. The show will be shown in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday school hour. It is not a formal class time, even though the series will inspire discussion. Feel free to just step in at any time.

# Worship

## November Worship Assistants

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
Greeters & Ushers	Gary Wood	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson
Lector (8:30)				
Acolyte	Owen Young	Creed White	Thomas Bullwinkle	Owen Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Helen Crown		Helen Crown	
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann		Gary Boisseau	
Counters	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	Nancy and Ivan Shuler	Art Fields	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour			Thanksgiving Dinner	



### Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

In November we conclude our time with the Pastoral Epistles by reading 2 Timothy and Titus. November concludes with the beginning of Advent. We'll turn our attention to the gospel of Matthew.

11/6 (All Saints) 2 Timothy 1-3:9

11/13 2 Timothy 3:10-4

11/20 Titus

11/27 Matthew 1:1-17

### 10:30 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.

Dial (929) 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 834 9025 1842

Password: 778805

### All Saints Remembrance

All Saints Sunday is November 6<sup>th</sup>. As a part of worship services that day the names of all congregational

members and friends of the congregation who have died during the past year will be read. If you have a friend or family member you'd like to have included in the prayers please give the name to Pastor Jon.

## Service

### 2023 Stewardship Drive

Our 2023 stewardship drive will run from Pie Sunday (Sunday, October 30) to the Parish Thanksgiving Dinner (Sunday, November 20). Your materials will include time and talent sheets for 2023, a proposed budget for 2023, and a pledge card. If you can't make it to the kickoff with Pie Sunday we'll mail your materials to you. If you have any questions get in touch with Bill Stimmel at [wstimmel@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wstimmel@rochester.rr.com)



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.
- David Storch as he shows increasing signs of dementia and moved into a memory care facility.
- Rev. Jennifer Phelps, former member of St. John's, as she recovers from neck and back injuries.

## Service (Cont.)



- Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the lawn in October.
- Thank you to Ellen Storch and Karen Spawton for playing piano the week Will was on vacation.
- Thank you to Ellen Storch for donating her rototiller that is in excellent condition to the church for the garden project.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton for helping with worship leadership on the Sundays Pastor Jon has been away. - Thank you to Phoebe and Greta Crowell for providing special music in worship.
- Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for mulching the church flower beds.

### Thanksgiving Food Baskets

The Victor Farmington Food Cupboard is again giving Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in our area. We have been asked to provide boxes of stuffing or instant mashed potatoes. There will be a box in the Gathering Area from October 9<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup>. If you prefer not to shop, monetary donations would be appreciated. Checks should be written to V/F Food Cupboard, NOT to St. John's. If you have questions contact Burdie Gillern.

### Victor Christmas Giving Tree

In lieu of providing actual Christmas gifts for needy families in the Victor school district we have been asked to again provide \$25 gift cards that parents can use for shopping. These cards can be from any major retailer: Target, Walmart, Amazon, Kohls, etc. There will be a display and sign up in the gathering area. Please take a slip and write your name and phone number on the poster. If you wish to give more than one gift card please sign on another line. Please tape the slip(s) to the purchased card(s) before they are returned to church.

The cards need to be at the church by November 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a box on the usher's stand to put the cards in or you can give them to Burdie Gillern.

### Family Promise

Our support week for Family Promise is coming right up, starting November 13. Your generous donations to our St. John's Family Promise fund are greatly

appreciated. They allow us to continue to support our families. Please place your donation in a clearly marked envelope (FPOC) in the offering plate, or in Pastor's mailbox, or Zuege's mailbox.

For those of you who love shopping on Amazon, remember that Family Promise of Ontario County is one of the eligible "smile" charities. Those donations go directly to Family Promise of Ontario County.

FPOC is looking for and discussing alternate community fund-raising events. If you have a brainstorm, let me know and I'll pass it on. Or just send it directly to the Family Promise office.

There was an informational meeting at the Victor Presbyterian Church at 6:30 on October 18 to discuss better ways to support our families through volunteer opportunities and exciting new program plans. I will be sending this information out separately.

Thank you,  
Mary Zuege

## Nuts and Bolts

### October Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. There were no new major items on the agenda, but reports on ongoing work included:

- Website and social media presence revamping
- Stewardship 2023
- Playground updates

### New Neighbor Program

In an effort to encourage new families to worship with us at St. John's, we developed the New Neighbor Program. So how does it work? If you have a new neighbor you'd like to welcome, contact Katy Stimmel at (585) 298-6515 (call or text), or sign up using the sign up sheet posted in the gathering area. She will arrange for a lovely inkwell flower vase to be at church on a Sunday of your choosing. Each flower vase comes with a welcome not ready for you to deliver to your new neighbor! (Flowers arranged by Hopper Hills floral shop in Victor.)

# Fun



## Sponsor Accessories for the New Playground

The playground project we approved is for the base unit. Families and individuals are invited to fund the many accessories possible for the new playground. They are as follows:

Sm Rock Wall	\$249
Sm Crooked Log Climber	199
4' Wave Slide	499
Angled Climber	100
6' Torpedo Straight Slide	599
Tic Tac Toe Panel	299
Lg Rock Wall	399
Log Rope Climber	299
Steering Wheel	100
Swing Set	1499

Please talk to Julie Stewart or Pastor Jon if you're interested in sponsoring an accessory.

## Church Playground Can & Bottle Collection Continues

We continue collecting deposit cans and bottles for replacing the playground. The cans and bottles fund is up to \$2475!!

## Pie Sunday



Reformation Sunday is October 30 this year. So, as is our tradition we will have pie for coffee hour! There will be pie after both worship services. In order to not go overboard with pies please sign up in the Gathering Area if you will provide a pie. That way we won't have far too many!

## Parish Thanksgiving Dinner



The annual Parish Thanksgiving Dinner will be held On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 worship service. Please look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the gathering area to see what food items you can bring. Many of the dishes on the table this year will be from food grown in our own garden. Also be sure to bring a empty stomach ready to be filled!



### October Bible Trivia Answers

- 1 Timothy was written by (or claims to be written by) who? Answer: Paul (1 Timothy 1:1)
- According to 1 Timothy what are rich people to do? Answer: Not be haughty but to do good and be generous.
- According to 1 Timothy how old does a widow have to be to be put on the list of widows? Answer: 60 (1 Timothy 5:9)
- According to 1 Timothy physical training is of some value, but what is of value in every way? Answer: Godliness (1 Timothy 4:8)

### November Bible Trivia Questions

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

- The author of 2 Timothy says the time will come when people will not want to hear sound teaching, but have what instead?
- Can you complete this, the most racist statement in the New Testament? "\_\_\_\_\_ are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
- The author of 2 Timothy mentions Timothy's mother and grandmother. What are their names?
- Matthew traces Jesus' supposed genealogy back to what famous faith ancestor?



# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>2</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>3</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  1:15 Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <u>All Saints Sunday</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>7</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> <u>Election Day</u> Election Day Bread Sale  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>9</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>10</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  1:15 Women's Bible Study	<b>11</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <u>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>14</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>15</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	<b>16</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>17</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  1:15 Women's Bible Study	<b>18</b>   3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <u>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word 11:45 Parish Thanksgiving Dinner	<b>21</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	<b>22</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>23</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>24</b> <u>Thanksgiving</u>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <u>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>28</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>29</b>  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>30</b> <u>Andrew, Apostle</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons			



# **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*

### **November Newsletter**

November 20 – Parish Thanksgiving Dinner