

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – Nov. 2025

Pastor's Paragraphs

In the midst of the darkness and despair that seems to engulf our society, let's remember some light hearted things about faith. The world was a mess in Jesus' day too. He was not afraid to wade into it. And he did not make things easy for himself. The twelve apostles were largely uneducated. Based on their occupations, they probably weren't the brightest bulbs shining either. They didn't get along. Simon the Zealot and Matthew the Tax Collector could never be friends. We know well that the name Peter really means, "Rock." James and John, the Sons of Zebedee, got the nickname, "The Sons of Thunder." At Jesus' arrest and trial, Peter fails so miserably that he is afraid of a servant girl. And let's not forget that Jesus and the disciples come from Galilee... Galilee of all places! There's no wonder the leadership in Jerusalem didn't take them seriously. How would it be today if a bunch of high school dropouts from West Virginia got into a religious debate with graduates of Yale Divinity School? It would be laughable! Yet that's basically what was going on.

Let's not forget other biblical characters: John the Baptist ate bugs. The prophet Ezekiel was almost certainly insane. Jacob was a scoundrel. Noah got seriously drunk at least once. Samson lost his head every time a pretty woman crossed his path. Gideon was a coward. Moses was a hot head. Lot dithered even when his life depended on decisive action. The prophet Jeremiah was a repeated failure. Esther used her feminine wiles to manipulate the king. Wise King Solomon made a plethora of bad choices. And King David was certainly no angel.

The list could go on and on and on. The point is this, if you feel like you don't know what to do, and that you aren't qualified to live faithfully in today's messy world, then join the club! By every earthly standard, God is a bad judge of abilities. Yet God chooses whom God chooses to do the impossible.

Be serious, yet don't take yourself too seriously. Feel society's hurts, yet don't let them overwhelm you. It is understandable to feel powerless, yet never forget what Jesus accomplished in his powerlessness! Whenever possible, smile at yourself and what God is doing. Nothing is beyond God's control.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Pie Sunday



Reformation Sunday is October 26 this year. So, as is our tradition we will have pie for coffee hour! There will be pie after both worship services. If you signed up to bring a pie, thank you. If not, it looks like we'll have plenty. Come and enjoy!

Prayer Labyrinth Progress



In early October we did some initial site work for the new prayer labyrinth. Then after worship on October 19 we placed many of the paving stones. You can see the progress in the photo above. Thank you to everyone who helped with both steps! We need about 50 more stones to complete the outermost ring. They will be ordered soon. The final step will be to return soil to around the pavers. The whole thing will be smooth and easily mowed across. Once it's complete we'll dedicate it and learn some prayer practices that go with it.

November Worship Assistants

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Greeters & Ushers	Janice Lockwood	Rob Stroup	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Greg and Mary Zuege
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Sue Kaufmann		Sue Kaufmann		
Communion Assistants	Emma Deibler		Sally Mansfield		
Counters	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	Greg and Mary Zuege	Anne Stromstad & Michele Myers	Bill and Katy Stimmel	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour				Parish Thanksgiving Dinner	



Concluding Luke's Gospel

In November we'll conclude our read-through of Luke's gospel. We already read the ending in Holy Week and the Easter season so we just have the end of chapter 18 and the beginning of chapter 19 left. Those chapters give us stories about the final segment of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. The final Sunday in November begins the season of Advent. Then we'll begin looking at Matthew's gospel.

- 11/2 All Saints Sunday
- 11/9 Luke 18:31-43
- 11/16 Luke 19:1-10
- 11/23 Luke 19:11-27
- 11/30 (Advent 1) Matthew 1:1-17



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>

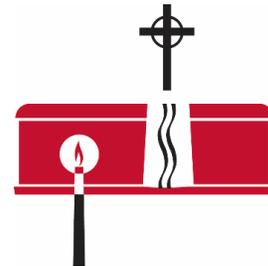
Meeting ID: 858 9891 1838

Passcode: 020293

By phone:

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

All Saints Remembrance



All Saints Sunday is November 2nd. 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.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Matthew 14:14-21)

11-24-1999

HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES AND 2 TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK FOR THE 5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE INVITED?!?



Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual Parish Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 23rd 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!



Thank you!

-Thank you to Greg Welch for creating the new casework for the organ's pipe chest. Much of the wood he used came from David Storch. He also had to purchase some additional wood.

-Thank you to Greg Welch, Bruce Stevenson, John DeLeon, Tom Urbanic, and Linda Flood for doing initial prep work for the prayer labyrinth and for moving the gaga ball pit.

-Thank you to Mark and Trudy Wyman for letting us use their box scraper for moving dirt at the gaga ball pit and prayer labyrinth.

Community Outreach Committee



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

The Victor Farmington Food Cupboard will again be giving hundreds of food baskets to families in the area for Thanksgiving. We are asked to make financial donations and/or donate stuffing mix. A box for collecting the mix is in the gathering area. We'll collect until November 9.



Victor Holiday Giving Tree

For Christmas we are collecting \$25 gift cards from Target, Walmart, Kohls and similar. They will be given to leaders in the Victor School District who will determine which needy families to distribute them to. A list is posted in the gathering area.

The cards need to be at the church by Sunday, November 9th. There will be a box on the usher's stand to put the cards in or you can give them to Burdie Gillern.

The Outreach Committee members thank you for your generous support as we try to do what works best for helping to provide our area families in need with a joyful Christmas



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

-Marcia Zavacki, who is recovering from hip problems.

-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.

Finances (up through 9/30/25)

YTD Income \$147,789

YTD Expenses \$142,720

Difference \$5,069

2026 Stewardship Drive

Our 2026 stewardship drive will run from Pie Sunday (Sunday, October 26) to the Parish Thanksgiving Dinner (Sunday, November 23). Your materials will include a letter about the drive, a time and talent sheet for 2026, and a pledge card. If you can't make it to the kickoff on Pie Sunday we'll mail your materials to you.

Family Promise

We are making good progress with the shelter site. Drywall is up and painted. Floors are coming along. FPOC will keep us posted as to when the doors will open to families. At this time, they are still looking to reach their goal for the Sheltering Families, Building Futures Campaign.

The Holiday Angel Program is coming right up. Last year FPOC supported 26 families across four programs; Shelter Apartments, Stabilization, Eviction Prevention, and Community Support. The St. John's congregation was blessed to be able to make the holiday brighter for a family with 7 children! Please stay tuned for more information in the bulletin. Check out the Monte Carlo Night at the Hotel Canandaigua. It looks like a good time and will benefit Family Promise!

October Council Highlights

The church council held its regular monthly meeting on October 13. Major items on the agenda were:

- plans for Pie Sunday, the Parish Thanksgiving Dinner, and the Gingerbread House Competition.
- plans for a special worship service in December to celebrate the organ's 50th anniversary
- Cancellation of the small capital fund drive because it is not needed. The Property Committee is approved to sell the several mowers and the snowblower that we do not use. The revenue will be used to purchase a larger lawn tractor that can run a mower and snowblower.
- updates on the prayer labyrinth
- affirming that we are up to date with New York State anti-sexual harassment training requirements for our employees



October Bible Trivia Answers

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb a tree to see Jesus? Answer: He was short (Luke 19:3)
2. What was Zacchaeus' job? Answer: Ruling tax collector (Luke 19:2)
3. What did Jesus disciples do when people brought children for Jesus to bless? Answer: turn them away (Luke 18:15)
4. Jesus said it was easier for what animal to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God? Answer: camel (Luke 18:25)

November Bible Trivia Questions

(All of the answers may be found in the Bible readings assigned for worship in November.)

1. In the parable of the Ten Pounds, what does the noblemen threaten to do to those who did not want him to be king over them?
2. In the parable of the Ten Pounds how many slaves receive money?
3. When Jesus approached Jericho a blind beggar heard that Jesus of Nazareth was coming. What does he call Jesus as he shouts out for him?
4. Did the twelve apostles understand Jesus when he told them he would be arrested and killed?

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <u>All Saints Sunday</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	3 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 <u>Election Day</u> 5am-9pm Polling Place 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	5 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	6 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 7:00 Conference Dean Electon	7	8
9 <u>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	10 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	13 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	14 2-7 Cello Lessons	15
16 <u>20th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	17 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	19 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	20 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	21 2-7 Cello Lessons	22
23 <u>Christ the King Sunday</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 12:00 Parish Thanksgiving Dinner	24 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	26 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	27 <u>Thanksgiving</u> 10:00-4:00 Vanderwall Family Dinner	28 2-7 Cello Lessons	29
30 <u>1st Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Breakfast Church 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion						



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

November Newsletter

11/23 Parish Thanksgiving Dinner