

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter –November 2026



Pastor's Paragraphs

Election Day is November 3rd. I suspect that no matter the outcome, there will be a group of people who are happy and relieved and there will be a group of people who are saddened and anxious. Indeed, in political elections we choose our leaders. Those leaders develop the various government systems that make the country work. I certainly have my thoughts and feelings about the election, but there is an overall thing that is certain to frustrate me regardless of the outcome.

It seems that many people consider an election and its results to be the be-all-and-end-all of civic engagement. People think that if the correct people enter into office they will direct the government's actions to solve society's problems. Prosperity will then be the result. This goes for those who think the government (especially the federal government) should be bigger, and for those who want it smaller. Either way, the government becomes a caricature to suit their aims.

Here's an example of what I mean. A couple decades ago the largest social service provider in the United States was Lutheran Social Services (LSS). LSS was bigger than Catholic Charities and it was bigger than the Red Cross. Most of its size came from the numerous nursing homes that Lutherans ran across the country. The early versions of these homes were just that – homes that took in a few elderly people. They were often staffed by just the local pastor and a few good-hearted volunteers. It comes as no surprise that the level of care was generally poor. However, they created a direct connection between the few residents, the small staff, and the local churches. Over time government support played an increasing role – such a role that it dwarfed anything the locals could do. The quality of care surely improved. There were better facilities and a qualified professional staff. But the relationship changed. Now instead of locals being invested they become voters who sought to have government funding directed to the priorities they felt most important. Personal connections and commitment changed.

These days in our church denomination there's a huge push for political advocacy. There's nothing wrong with that of course. But there is an almost complete absence of personal hands on connections. This goes for more than just the church. It seems to go for most people.

Problems are fixed somehow through legislation and programs, not enduring efforts at a local level.

I don't think Jesus ever did any political advocacy work. He never tried to influence government policies or laws. His frequent conflicts with the religious leaders were because the religious used laws and regulations to distance themselves from hands on connections.

Jesus is the example we build our lives upon. Regardless of the outcome of the election, we are wrong to expect government to take over our responsibility as God's children for each other and for the community. Said differently, it is not about creating a "Godly government." It remains hands-on shoulder-to-shoulder work; often in difficult circumstances. That is how Jesus built the community of disciples. That is how we build the church and God's kingdom in this world.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Prayer Service for Election Day

There is a great deal of anxiety as we head into this year's elections. On November 2nd, the evening before Election Day, we will have a special prayer service at 7pm by Zoom. This service has been developed by the Rev. Gail Swanson, retired pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Brighton. It is not political. It is an invitation for God's presence and guidance in the election.

November Worship Assistants

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Greeters & Ushers	Sue Kaufmann	Helen Crown	Linda Flood	Janice Lockwood	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Elijah Young	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Linda Flood		Linda Flood		
Communion Assistants	Janice Lockwood		Allyn Itterly		
Counters	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	Greg and Mary Zuege	Anne Stromstad & Michele Myers	Bill and Katy Stimmel	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour			The Stuarts	Parish Thanksgiving Dinner	



Worship Readings for November

November brings a mix of themes for worship. We begin with All Saints Day on November 1, and we'll use the Bible readings typical for that day. Then we turn to Nehemiah for three weeks. Nehemiah continues the story that began in Ezra, which we read in October. Some of the themes are similar, but we also find new ones. November ends with the beginning of Advent. Our Advent series this year is texts of joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promises.

November 1 – Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 – Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:1-20

November 15 – Nehemiah 4:1-23, 6:15-16

November 22 – Nehemiah 5

November 29 – Isaiah 9:2b-7

Pie Sunday



Reformation Sunday is October 25 this year. So, as is our tradition we will have pie for coffee hour! There will be pie after both worship services. Thank you to everyone who signed up to bring a pie. Enjoy!



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=kWc27H9b1VhTH4f1yIbb4ObrouDVtO.1>

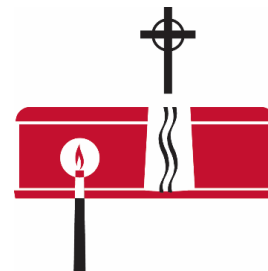
Meeting ID: 827 9018 2949

Passcode: 131540

By phone:

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

All Saints Remembrance



All Saints Sunday is November 1st. 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.



Community Clothes Closet Move

The Victor Community Clothes Closet provides clothing at no cost to people throughout our area. As you probably know, the clothing distribution part of the closet is moving into the unused rooms in our Sunday school wing. The collection and sorting portions of the closet are remaining at the United Methodist Church on Main St. (As of now, there is no conversation about moving those portions to us.) The move will take place on October 23. The closet will reopen distribution in early November. This will bring a lot of people through the doors of our building and is a great opportunity for outreach.



Election Day Bread Sale

We are known as the polling place that has bread! Even when people are grouchy about their choices on the ballot they love the smell of bread when they enter the building. We're again having a bread sale for the mid-term election on November 3. If you can, please consider making and donating a yeast bread or sweet bread (banana, zucchini, etc.). We'll also be baking various breads at church all day. We will begin at 3am and continue until about 7pm. If you are able to come by the church to be a part of the baking crew please talk to Pastor Jon.

2027 Stewardship Drive

Our 2027 stewardship drive will run from Pie Sunday (Sunday, October 25) to the Parish Thanksgiving Dinner (Sunday, November 22). Your materials will include a letter about the drive, a time and talent sheet for 2027, and a pledge card. If you can't make it to the kickoff on Pie Sunday we'll mail your materials to you.



- Thank you to everyone who helped with mowing the lawn in October.
- Thank you to Bruce Stevenson, John Cipollina, and Tom Urbanic for making repairs to the bridge and seats in the outdoor chapel.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with picking the apples on the church's trees.
- Thank you to those who helped with sorting and clearing out items in the unused Sunday school rooms.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton and Gary Boisseau for making the chicken for the chicken barbeque in September.



- Paul Huber as he recovers and is having steady slow improvement.
- Artorius DeRuyter, infant son of Whitney (Stevenson) DeRuyter who has a heart condition which will be addressed with surgery in a couple months.
- Marcia Zavacki as she recovers from a fall.
- Nancy Shuler as she is having physical therapy and considering plans for future living arrangements.

Finances (through 9/30/26)

YTD Income \$146,741
YTD Expenses \$136,903
Difference \$9,839

We have a bit of a cash surplus at the moment but we expect wintertime bills to increase. Thank you to you for your support this far through the year.

October Council Highlights

- Church council held its monthly meeting on October 12. Major items on the agenda were:
- Finalizing flyers for the surrounding neighborhoods
 - Review of committee actions and needs
 - Approving a building use agreement for the Community Clothes Closet.



Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

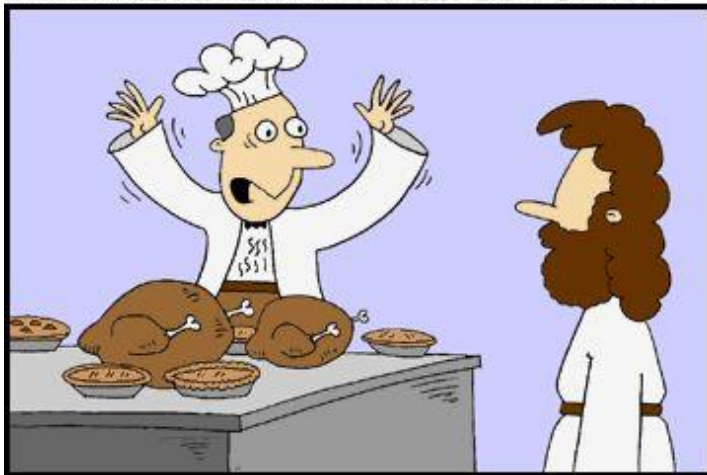
The annual Parish Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 22nd after the 10:30 worship service. Please look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the gathering area to see what food items you can bring. Even though the harvest from the church garden was light this year, many of the dishes on the table this year will be from food we grew. Also be sure to bring a empty stomach ready to be filled!

Community Outreach Committee

Thanks so much to everyone who provided gift cards for the Victor Schools Needy families especially to generous people who took 3/4 slips from the chart! Please return your cards to the collection box by October 25. Thanks also to all who provided /sent money to support the Food Cupboard Thanksgiving Basket program this year. We will have a "Mitten Tree" up in the gathering area from around Thanksgiving to December 20th. The items collected will be given to the Blue Star Moms they distribute them to needy children in Ontario County.

-2027 Stewardship drive

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(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?!?

Ladies who lunch

All women in the congregation are invited to join us.

RSVP

Jan Lockwood or Mary Zuege

**Sunday,
November 15**

**Right after
Church**

**Fellowship
Hall**

Our guest speaker will be sharing her experiences being a female Pastor.

Questions may be submitted prior to November 10

A light lunch will be provided. Goodies to share are welcome but not necessary.

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Rummage Sale

-Save the date-

Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in having a rummage sale. The date is tentatively set for is Saturday, April 3, 2027. Talk to Nicholas Stuart for more information.



October Bible Trivia Questions

1. What did the opponents to rebuilding the temple do to get it to stop? Answer: Bribed Persian officials (Ezra 4:5)
2. What was Ezra's job/occupation? Answer: scribe (Ezra 7:11)
3. Why was Ezra too ashamed to lift his face to God? Answer: the "iniquities of the people", especially marriages with non-Jews (Ezra 9:6)
4. Paul says that all have fallen short of what? Answer: the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

November Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All of the answers may be found in Nehemiah.

1. What was Nehemiah's job before he went to Jerusalem?
2. What was the first thing Nehemiah did by night when he arrived in Jerusalem?
3. What did Nehemiah do with his food allowance?
4. Nehemiah's opponents said his work on rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was so weak that what animal would knock it down if it ran on it?



As fall settles in and we head toward the colder months, we wanted to share a little of what's happening at Family Promise of Ontario County. From welcoming families into the Shill Family Center to preparing for the holiday season, there is a lot going on behind the scenes, and we're grateful to have such a caring community alongside us. In this update, you'll find a few ways to stay connected. Thank you for continuing to be part of our mission.

Events:

- **Golf to End Family Homelessness Recap:**

A massive thank you to the 16 teams who braved the early morning and joined us for Golf to End Family Homelessness! You all helped make it such a fun and successful day. Together, we brought in \$20,011.01 gross to support local families. We are already looking forward to next year!

- **ROC the Day – Tuesday, December 2:**

ROC the Day is back! This, one day only, community wide giving day, organized by United Way, is a great opportunity to support local nonprofits. We would appreciate your support by donating to our mission or sharing what we do. Keep an eye out for more information from us as we get closer!

- **A Ghost Story of Christmas - A Christmas Carol – December 11:**

Mr. Kim Tennerio has once again graciously offered his one man performance of A Christmas Carol as a fundraiser for Family Promise. If you missed last year, here is your chance! We are incredibly thankful for his generosity and support!

Tickets are available here: <https://givebutter.com/a-ghost-story-of-christmas-a-christmas-carol-copy-xmogf7>

Holiday Angel Program:

Yes, it's that time of year again! We are getting ready for our Holiday Angel Program. I have asked our graduate families to complete their wish lists and return them by the end of October. Once we have those in hand, I'll put together our family sign up list for anyone who would like to "adopt" a family for the holidays. This list will be released on: November 2, 2026 - November 6, 2026.

We are so excited to bring this tradition back and help make the holidays a little brighter for families!

Family Shelter Update:

The Shill Family Center has now welcomed 8 families since opening, and we are thrilled that 3 families have already moved into stable housing!

Opening and operating a new shelter has been a learning experience, and we continue to learn, adjust, and grow every day. We are incredibly grateful for the community that has helped make this new chapter possible.

Overnight Per Diem Opportunities:

We know many of you have been excited about the possibility of volunteering overnight at the Family Center. While overnight support was previously a volunteer opportunity, we now have a need for per diem overnight staff because our New York State certified shelter must be staffed around the clock.

Shifts may be an 8 hour overnight shift or divided into two 4 hour shifts. If you or someone you know may be interested, please reach out to me for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

More opportunities will be coming soon, but these are currently some of our biggest needs:

- Fall Cleanup
- Moving Crew
- Office and Administrative Help

If you have a group, congregation, or just a few people looking for a way to help, please reach out.

Prayer Requests:

Please continue to keep the families staying at the Shill Family Center, our staff, and our growing shelter program in your prayers as we continue this important work.

Gift Card Needs:

We haven't made a big gift card request in a few months, but our supply is getting very low. Families entering our shelter have recently experienced a reduction in their EBT food benefits, so we are working to help supplement that loss while they are with us. If your congregation, group, or organization would like to help, gift cards are always a simple and incredibly helpful way to support our families.

We are needing:

- Walmart gift cards
- Gas gift cards
- Tops gift cards

Even a small gift card can make a big difference for a family working toward stability.

November 2026

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



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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The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

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Address Service Requested

November Newsletter

22 Parish Thanksgiving Dinner