

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – October 2026



Pastor's Paragraphs

Have you ever accomplished a task but not received the credit for it? Perhaps it was a project at work and it was overlooked at your annual evaluation, or maybe it was a group project for school and someone else took the credit. Maybe you made a key contribution to a charitable cause and it was ignored. I think we've all had the experience of doing things and not getting credit. For some of us that was more often than for others.

We're doing a worship series on Ezra and Nehemiah. These biblical books recount the return of Jewish people from exile in Babylon and the reconstruction of Jerusalem. It all takes place in the 6th century B.C. There is a group of people that is conspicuously absent from the texts though. They do not get the credit they are due. That group is the people who remained living around Jerusalem all along. 2 Chronicles gives the impression that the region was completely desolate after the Babylonians deported the Jews. But that was not the case. Various sources, including 2 Kings 25:12 and Jeremiah 39:10, show that quite a number of people remained.

How did these uncredited people feel about the Jews who were emigrating back 50 years after they were deported? Perhaps they were happy to see them return. Maybe their hope was renewed that a flourishing society would be rebuilt. Or maybe they were upset. They had built their own lives on their own, after all, and they'd learned how to survive. Now a horde was returning and taking over everything. No one knows how they felt. What Ezra does make clear is that those who remained were excluded from the reconstruction work. They were considered inferior, untrustworthy, and impure.

Ezra and Nehemiah paint a pretty rosy picture of the reconstruction of Jerusalem. The returning citizens have righteous motives and community spirit. All the obstacles they encounter are overcome quickly through righteousness and diligence. Other books of the Bible of time period, especially Haggai, give a different picture. Haggai describes the returning citizens as self-centered with misplaced priorities. (Haggai 1:2-5) I'm inclined to think Haggai's description is more correct than Ezra's.

If that is the case, then I doubt those who remained were very happy about those returning. Those who were living there had continued at least some form of worship and ritual. (Ezra 4:2) It is possible that even the

destroyed temple and altar continued to function in some form. Whatever is the case, the efforts of many faithful people have certainly been overlooked in Ezra and Nehemiah. That does not mean Ezra and Nehemiah are bad or wrong. It just means that the Bible is doing what it often does – giving us clues that things are more complex than they look at first sight.

God alone knows who among those who remained were faithful and good. God does not forget such diligence, even if the world does forget. Whenever our good efforts are overlooked, or perhaps even rejected, it is understandable that we are upset. But we remember God's perfect memory. And even if we don't get credit for it, good work and good ideas always lead to building a good future. Good work always has enduring value.

Finally, St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, "...not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God."

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Community Clothes Closet Move

The Victor Community Clothes Closet provides clothing at no cost to people throughout our area. It is currently at the United Methodist Church on Main St. But it has to move out. Their leaders have been in conversation with our church council. We have decided to give them space in the underused rooms in our Sunday school wing. The move will take place in late October. This will bring a lot of people through the doors of our building and is a great opportunity for outreach. If you are able to help with moving items and with preparing our space please talk to Pastor Jon. There will be more information as the move occurs.

October Worship Assistants

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Greeters & Ushers	Janice Lockwood	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Greg and Mary Zuege	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care (10:30)	Mary Zuege		Mary Zuege	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistants	Greg Zuege		Sue Kaufmann	Emma Deibler
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour		Pumpkin Yummies		Pie Sunday



Worship Readings for October

We continue in the book of Ezra for the month of October. We'll see more waves of Jewish people leave Babylon and return to Jerusalem. Ezra is their leader and we see both his confidence and his sinfulness. We end the month with Reformation Sunday and use a typical text from Romans.

October 4 – Ezra 4:1-5, 24 – 6:22

October 11 – Ezra 7:7-28, 8:15-36

October 18 – Ezra 9

October 25 – Romans 3:19-28



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)

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. 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!

Church Garden Harvest

We harvested about 300 pounds of potatoes from the church garden this year. The deer really took a toll! There were about 20 pumpkins, all on the smaller side. That's not enough to sell by the roadside as we sometimes do. We did harvest about 300 pounds of apples. That's our best harvest yet. The apples and potatoes are being donated to the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard. Thank you to everyone who helped with harvesting and with tending the garden throughout the summer.



- Thank you to everyone who helped with mowing the lawn in September.
- Thank you to John DeLeon for painting various parts of the church building as they needed it.
- Thank you to Mike and Cassie Ross for giving the use of their field for the church garden.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with harvesting the potatoes and pumpkins from the church garden.
- Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for the landscaping work in front of the church building.

From: The Spot

To our friends at St. John's Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for supporting The Spot by collecting 8 bags of school supplies, 3 backpacks, socks, and underwear. These will support families in the Victor and Canandaigua school districts to start off the year ready for success!

With gratitude,
The Spot Board of Directors



- Paul Huber as he recovers slowly but also has many setbacks.
- Artorius DeRuyter, infant son of Whitney (Stevenson) DeRuyter who as a heart condition which will be addressed with surgery in a couple months.
- Lewey Emoge, infant acquaintance of Marci Zavacki, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Finances (through 8/31/26)

YTD Income \$133,608
YTD Expenses \$122,300
Difference \$11,309

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.

Gift Cards for Families in the Victor School District

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 chart to sign up will be posted on October 4th.

Victor-Farmington Community Thanksgiving Basket Program

The Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard is proving Thanksgiving food baskets to families in the area. Rather than collecting food, they prefer to purchase everything through Foodlink. The cupboard is asking for donations of \$60, which will allow them to provide Thanksgiving dinner for a family. See the cupboard's website for donation information.

September Council Highlights

Church council held its monthly meeting on September 14. Major items on the agenda were:

- Distributing flyers to the surrounding neighborhoods
- Review of committee actions and needs
- Approving Bill and Sue Maddock for membership.



September Bible Trivia Questions

1. Hebrews says to endure trials for the sake of what? Answer: Discipline (Hebrews 12:7)
2. What Persian king allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonians destroyed it? Answer: Cyrus (Ezra 1:2-3)
3. What is the first holiday the Jews returning to Jerusalem from Babylon celebrated? Answer: Festival of Booths/Tabernacles (Ezra 3:4)
4. How many years after the Jews returned did they begin to rebuild the temple? Answer: Two (Ezra 3:8)

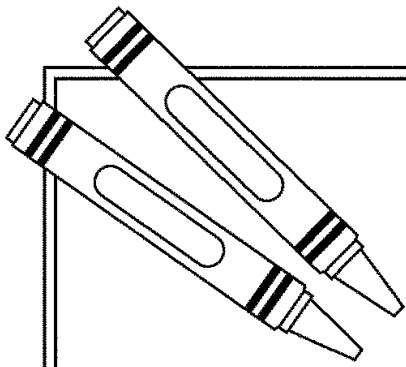
October Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What did the opponents to rebuilding the temple do to get it to stop?
2. What was Ezra's job/occupation?
3. Why was Ezra too ashamed to lift his face to God?
4. Paul says that all have fallen short of what?

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	2 2-7 Cello Lessons	3
4 <u>19th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 3:00 Fall Conference Assembly (At Bethlehem, Fairport)	5 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	7 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	8 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	9 2-7 Cello Lessons	10
11 <u>20th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	12 <u>Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council	13 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	15 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	16 2-7 Cello Lessons	17
18 <u>21st Sunday after Pentecost</u> <u>St. Luke, Evangelist</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	19 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	22 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	23 2-7 Cello Lessons	24
25 <u>Reformation Sunday</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	26 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	28 <u>Simon and Jude, Apostles</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	29 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	30 2-7 Cello Lessons	31 <u>All Hallows Eve</u> <u>Reformation Day</u>



Just for KIDS

It's time to think about your summer vacation. Imagine going to visit some Bible-time places!

Read the description of each place. Choose a name from the list below. Check your answers in the Bible verses.

1. City where Jesus was born.
Matthew 2:1

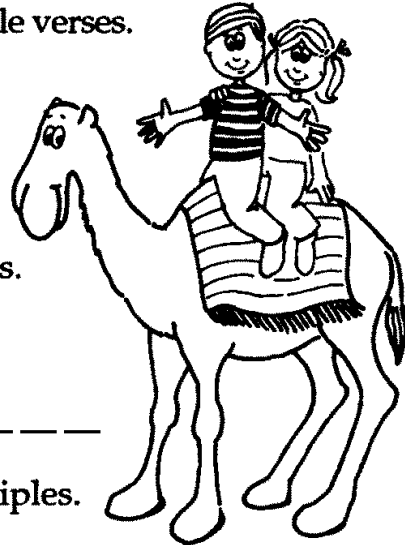
2. Made of cedar, olivewood, cypress.
Covered inside with gold.
Took seven years to build.
1 Kings 6:1-37

3. Where Jesus prayed with His disciples.
Mark 14:32

4. Place where Moses received the Ten Commandments.
Exodus 19:20

5. Place where God placed Adam and Eve. Very beautiful.
Genesis 2:15

6. A place where Jesus did much teaching and many events happened.
Mark 7:31



**Word
list**

Sea of Galilee
Mount Sinai
Garden of Eden

Garden of Gethsemane
Solomon's Temple
Bethlehem



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

October Newsletter

25 Pie Sunday