

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – September 2021

## Growth

### Pastor's Paragraphs

Does it feel like the world is going to run off its rails? There is so much going on right now: Afghanistan, Haiti, hurricanes, wildfires, the pandemic, climate change, political tension, racial tension, and more.

There also seems to be questions about the truth. What is the truth? Who determines it? What sources can you trust? It seems like each political perspective has its own sources of facts that back up its version of the truth.

It can all feel overwhelming. What are we to do? How are we to know what is right? As Christians it is easy to simply say we are to be loving. But how do we respond in a way that we know is indeed truly loving?

Let's start by remembering that the whole world rests safely in God's hands. God sees. God knows. God will make sure everything will be taken care of. Nothing is too big for God. But that does not mean that we just sit back and watch!

God made us capable and highly sophisticated beings. We can do amazing things! God has called us to engage the world's struggles and bring real help. If you look at St. Paul's letters in the Bible you see that he often refers to a collection he is taking for the poor in Jerusalem. No one knows exactly what the problem was, but it's often suggested they were suffering from a serious famine. Paul's collection brought real help to them.

We are not capable of solving all the world's problems ourselves. But we are called to use our abilities to address those things we can. I suggest spending time in prayer with God discerning what it is that you should be doing. Ask God's guidance to know what things to focus on; and conversely, what things to let go. God will guide us to focus our efforts on what God wants us to focus on. Then really pour yourself into doing those couple things! Real progress will be made, even if it's still on a small scale. God will guide other people to focus on the other things. Don't worry about them overly much. Ultimately it will all get done.

Pick something and get to work on it! God's kingdom will come. God's will is going to be done.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

### Sunday School

Sunday school resumes for all ages on September 12. We will continue with the one room model for those up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have confirmation class. Adults will continue using video courses. Talk to Wendy Sackett or Pastor Jon if you have questions.

### Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast resumes on Wednesday, September 8 at 8:30 am. The group will begin viewing the movie *Blue Miracle*. Breakfast will be provided. Breakfasts will resume unless the situation with the pandemic would suggest otherwise.

### New Member Class

During the pandemic several new families have begun connecting with St. John's. Some intend to be with us just temporarily. Some would like to join. With all the uncertainty we have not had any new member classes for quite awhile. We will begin one during the Sunday school hour starting on September 12<sup>th</sup>. It is usually just two sessions. If you are interested in learning more about the congregation or if you are interested in joining please be in touch with Pastor Jon.

## Worship



### Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

Our worship series on the Old Testament prophets takes us to these passages in September.

September 5 – Isaiah 57 (old problems returning)

September 12 – Jeremiah 1 (Jeremiah's call from God)

September 19 – Jeremiah 26 (temple sermon)

September 26 – Jeremiah 13:1-11 (dirty underwear)

## **Worship (Cont.)**

### **New Pianist - William Shi**

Please welcome William Shi as our new pianist! Will is a graduate student at the Eastman School of Music. Will's focus is on classical music but he is capable of playing in whatever style is needed. He is doing doctoral work which means he will be in the area for at least three or four years. Please introduce yourself to Will when you get a chance!

### **8:30 Worship Outside**

Due to the pandemic the 8:30 worship service will remain outside for as long as the weather permits. That means that some days may be chilly! We will move inside when it is rainy. On any given Sunday come prepared to be outside though.

### **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

### **Altar Care and Ushering**

Sign up sheets will be posted for those who are willing to do altar care (especially at 10:30), and for those willing to serve at ushers or communion assistants at 10:30. Ushering will be a bit simpler than in was before the pandemic. The role is now greeting people as they enter, offering them worship bulletins, and getting a count of how many people were in worship. (We are not resuming collecting the offering just yet.)

## **Service**

### **God's Work Our Hands Sunday**

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 12. We'll harvest the potatoes in the church garden after worship on that day. We'll also sow rye seed as a cover crop. Unfortunately the pumpkins are a bust this year. Most plants didn't grow and the few that did are struggling. If there are any pumpkins they will not be ready by September 12.

### **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.)

### **Maggie's Kids Summer Camp Day at St. John's**

We are hosting the Maggie's Kids/Community Lutheran Ministry summer day camp on Monday July 5. We're looking for donations of: juice boxes, small assorted bags of chips, 9oz. dixie cups, 4oz. yogurts, granola bars, fruit roll ups, mini muffins, and cookies (no peanuts). Financial donations toward these items would also be appreciated. Finally, we're looking for some helpers that day, beginning at 8:30. We'd also like to borrow three coolers. If you can help please see the sign up sheets in the Gathering Area or talk to Burdie Gillern.



- Thank you to Katy Stimmel for her service on church council.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for having the damaged sanctuary benches reupholstered and also the piano bench reupholstered.
- Thank you to Bruce Stevenson, Tom Urbanic, John DeLeon and Ben Deibler for helping to remove several dead and dying trees.
- Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the church lawn in August.
- Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for various gardening/landscaping projects.
- Thank you to Bruce Allen for helping us navigate the insurance issues from the raccoon infestation in the sanctuary.
- Thank you to everyone who donated food, time, and/or money for the day we hosted the Maggie's Kids Camp in early July.
- Thank you to everyone who gave altar flowers in August.

## Service (Cont.)

### Garden Project Update

As of August 25 we've delivered 330 pounds of sweet corn to the food cupboard. The majority of the crop is left to pick. The potatoes appear to have done well. We won't know how many there will be until we harvest on September 12. The apple trees at the church building have a good number of apples. This will be the first year of a decent harvest. The youth of the congregation will pick them in mid-September.



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.
- Gary Myers who is being treated for multiple myeloma.
- The family and friends of Linda Ellis as they mourn her death.
- The family and friends of Knute Halvorson as they mourn his death.
- Eleanor Spawton, Jim Spawton's mother, who has a weakening heart valve.
- Zack Anderson, fiancé of Marcia Zavacki's granddaughter who is in need of a liver transplant after his kidneys and liver began to fail.
- Judy VanDeVelde as she recovers from back injuries sustained from a fall.
- Pat Hortop who continues to recover from a fall.

## Nuts and Bolts

### August Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on August 16. Major items on the agenda were:

- hiring William Shi as pianist
- reviewing pandemic operating procedures
- making a plan to finance replacing the playground
- accepted the resignation of Katy Stimmel from council and appointed Bill Stimmel in her place.

### Finances (up through 7/31/21)

YTD Income \$133,279.31  
YTD Expenses \$117,443.20  
Difference \$15,836.11



### Church Playground

#### Can & Bottle Collection Resumes

We have resumed collecting deposit cans and bottles for replacing the playground. We have collected \$1300 so far and would like to collect at least \$700 more by next summer. The rest of the funding for the playground will come from other sources. The collection bin is in the old entrance to the building.

## Fun



### July/August Bible Trivia Questions

1. What swallows Jonah? Answer: a big fish (Jonah 1:17)
2. What city does Nahum speak against? Answer: Nineveh (Nahum 1:1)
3. What building does Haggai push to have finished? Answer: the temple (Haggai 1:8)
4. According to Habakkuk the righteous live by what? Answer: their faith (Habakkuk 2:4)

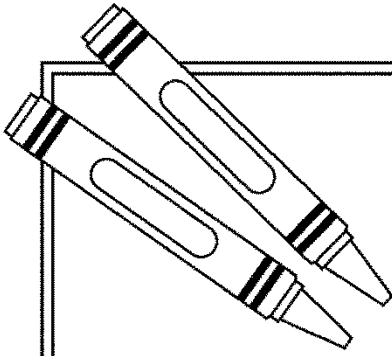
### September Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What does Jeremiah hide in the cleft of a rock?
2. What prophet has a vision of an almond branch and a boiling pot?
3. What nation does Jeremiah say the people should submit to?
4. In Isaiah God says there is no peace for who?

# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Nickolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, 1872	3  3-8 Cello Lessons	4
5 <u>15th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	6 <u>Labor Day</u>	7  6-8 Pipe Band	8 8:30 Men's Breakfast	9 Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Columbia, 1654 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	10  3-8 Cello Lessons	11
12 <u>16th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 God's Work Our Hands Potato Harvest	13 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 <u>Holy Cross Day</u>  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band	15 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons	16 Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, c. 258 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	17 Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, 1179  3-8 Cello Lessons	18 Dag Hammarskjold, renewer of society, 1961
19 <u>17th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	20  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 <u>Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</u>  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band	22 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons	23 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	24  3-8 Cello Lessons	25
26 <u>18th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	27  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	28  3-7 Violin Lessons 6-8 Pipe Band 7:00 Property Committee	29 <u>Michael and All Angels</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons	30 Jerome, translator, teacher, 420  10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool		



# Just for KIDS

## Matthew 4:10

Find the words that fit these definitions. You may use a dictionary or check in a church bulletin or hymnal. Write the letters from the words on the lines below.

A song sung in church

1 2 3 4

Money given in church

5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

"The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_"

13 14 15 16 17 18

What we find written in the Bible:

God's \_\_\_\_\_

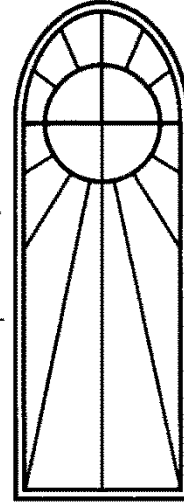
19 20 21 22

Another word for Bible verses

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Warm feeling in your heart

33 34 35 36



"

19 5 9 23 1 10 13

28 1 8

33 5 9 22

2 5 29 9

12 5 22

15 4 22

23 8 9 35 17

5 4 33 2

1 10 3

"

Matthew 4:10b





# **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*

### **September Newsletter**

September 12 – Potato Harvest