

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – September 2022

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

Someone recently pointed out this article from CNN about white Christian nationalism:

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/24/us/white-christian-nationalism-blake-cec/index.html>

Whether you read it or not isn't important for what I will discuss here. (I am pretty sure that if you're of the "liberal" persuasion you'll agree with it. If you're of the "conservative" persuasion you'll take issue with it.)

I bring it up because it does get at a key driving force of human beings, and one that I believe is indeed creating serious fractures in western churches today. That driving force is fear. Though the above article addresses fear in religious conservatives the same goes for those who are liberal.

It is not news that religious beliefs are significantly declining in the United States. The Gallup pole cited by that article says that as of 2020 the majority of Americans do not belong to a religious community. It's a 20% decline in just 21 years! It's no wonder that people of all religious beliefs are filled with fear. For many the church was taught as something that would grow ever larger and last forever. It was the most important thing there was and it was the center of life. It took priority over everything else. That is clearly not the case for the majority of the people currently around us.

But fear is not the right way to react. Fear has its place of course. It protects us from immediate danger. But ongoing fear is destructive. Fear takes us down an ever-darkening path. Fear makes us protective and defensive. It does not let us see opportunity or possibility. Fear takes away gratitude.

If asked what is the opposite of love I think most people would say hate. But the real opposite of love is fear. 1 John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." And I believe fear is also an opposite of faith.

For many of us it is hard to see the church decline. Many of us have poured our whole selves into making the church flourish; making it be the community of God's kingdom alive and real here on earth. We can question our motives. We can question our faith. We can become filled with fear for the future. But we need

to remember this. The Church is God's. It always has been. It always will be.

I believe that in the fullness of time it will be discovered that the church we thought was so close to what God wanted may have not been as perfect as we thought. Certainly there is a lot of good. I don't mean to suggest otherwise. But there is also a lot of bad that we just don't realize. God's always been at work though. And God will continue to work.

Here's a truth that casts out fear. Whether we see growth or decline, it is a gift of God's that we have meaningful work to do. It is a privilege to bring the grace and mercy of God to a world that desperately needs it.

As for me, sure, it feels good when the sanctuary is full of people. I feel validation that I'm doing a good job. Decline leads to all kinds of questions. But ultimately what our world needs is ongoing witnessing to God's love. There is no greater sense of worth or value than getting to be a part of God's eternal kingdom. Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Sept. 11 Sunday School Rally Day

The 2022-23 Sunday school year begins on September 11. We are resuming classes for all ages:

3yr old – 6th grade, weekly Bible lesson classes

7th-8th grade – Confirmation class

9th grade and above - 1517 Academy video course on the Lutheran understanding of vocation. Vocation is more than a career. It is about understanding who God created you to be and how you apply it in the world in which we live.

Worship

September Worship Assistants

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
Greeters & Ushers	Linda Flood	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Gary Wood	Bruce & Connie Stevenson
Lector (8:30)				
Acolyte	Owen Young	Creed White	Thomas Bullwinkle	Owen Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau	
Communion Assistants	Adele Garvey		Nancy Shuler	
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson	Tom Kurilovitch and Helen Crown	Beth and Molly Perdan	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour		Picnic		



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

In September we'll conclude our reading of Luke's gospel. We've covered every chapter and verse since last December. Our remaining chapters also conclude Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, which we've been on since June. The gospel writer Luke has crafted every story with care. We'll see that continue all the way through the remaining verse.

9/4 Luke 18:1-14
 9/11 Luke 18:15-34
 9/18 Luke 18:35-19:10
 9/25 Luke 19:11-27

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

Service



- Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the lawn in July and August.
- Thank you to everyone who donated food or money, and thank you to the volunteers who helped with the Maggie's Kids camp day.
- Thank you to everyone who gave for the school supply collection.
- Thank you to Julie Steward for doing research for replacing the church playground.
- Thank you to John CiPollina for making repairs to the church doors.
- Thank you to Mike Ross for restoring the banks of the creek that runs through the church property after the erosion earlier this year.
- Thank you to Dianne Millard for serving on church council.
- Thank you to John CiPollina and Bruce Stevenson for replacing the church mailbox.
- Thank you to Karen Spawton for providing piano support for worship during the weeks that Will was on vacation/leave.

Service (Cont.)



- 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.
- Joanna Stimmel, relative of Bill Stimmel who has had intestinal surgery and is in ongoing pain.

Community Outreach Committee

Thanks so much to everyone who brought in school supplies for the Victor Farmington Supply collection for grades 2 and 3 we had 20 completed bags and some extra items .

Many thanks to the person that sent in an ALDI's gift card when we were getting items for our Maggie's Kids day. It really helped us out. We had a good day with the kids and many of you helped with bringing in supplies or giving monetary donations!!!



Garden Project Update

The good news is that our apple trees are all full of apples. It's the best crop we've ever had. There's good news on the potato front too. The plants are coming along nicely. We seem to be past the worst of the potato beetles. The bad news comes with the sweet corn and pumpkins. For some reason only one of the two varieties of sweet corn are producing anything. And our pumpkins are not doing all that well. We'll have some but not many. We are on track to have a good potato harvest on September 11.



God's Work Our Hands Sunday

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 11. We'll harvest the potatoes in the church garden after the picnic on that day. We'll also sow rye seed as a cover crop.

Family Promise

This was a busy summer for Family Promise. We helped support 4 families with 12 people during our week in August. Also, the graduate families needed assistance this time around too. Your generous donations to our St. John's Family Promise fund are greatly appreciated to refill the fund. Our next support week is the week of November 13.

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. The Great Bed Race was cancelled this year. We only had 4 teams register; we needed 8! FPOC is looking for and discussing alternate community fund-raising events. If you have a brain-storm, let me know. I'll pass it on. Or just send it directly to the Family Promise office.

-Submitted by Mary Zuege

Nuts and Bolts

August Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on August 15th. Major items on the agenda were:

- Website and social media presence review.
- Plans for rally day and a church picnic
- Planning the special congregational meeting for August 28 to approve funding for replacing the playground and repairing the sanctuary insulation.

Special Congregational Meeting August 28, Following 10:30 Worship

We will have a special congregational meeting to approve funding for two projects.

1. Repairs and upgrades to the insulation in the sanctuary ceiling. This work is required because of the damage done by raccoons last year. Our property committee has solicited bids for the work and recommends Grave Brothers for the project. They will install insulation in all places where it was damaged and apply additional insulation to bring the room up to current code. Their estimate is \$8723. This will be paid for with cash currently in our operating fund.

2. Playground replacement. Our current playground is a home model playground built by Bears Playgrounds of Lima, NY. It is about 20 years old and has deteriorated significantly. The church council is recommending it be replaced with another Bears playground, but this time a commercial model. The suggested playground is the Ponderosa model shown on the next page.



This playground can be customized with a variety of accessories. The church will pay for the base model and invite anyone interested to donate the accessories. The base model costs are as follows:

Base Unit -	\$5499
Wooden Rail -	75
Wooden Roof -	798
Safety Sign -	249
Total -	\$6621

Bears is giving us a special discount of 20%. This lowers the cost to \$5301.

Funding sources:

Can and bottle collection - 2200

Memorial Fund – 3101

The current playground is located behind the building. This is not easily visible for adults to supervise children. We are in conversation with the town to install the new playground a little in front of the Fellowship Hall. We will relocate the existing safety mulch and borders.

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.)



September 11 is going to be a big day! We'll begin the 2022-23 Sunday school year during the Sunday school hour. Later in the day we'll harvest potatoes in the church garden for God's Work Our Hands Sunday. In between we'll celebrate with a picnic!

The church will provide hamburgers and hotdogs, as well as chips, fruit, and drinks. You are invited to bring a dessert to share. Please sign up in the Gathering Area so we know how many to prepare for. Talk to Pastor Jon or Joe Pow for more information.

Baking for Coffee Hour

Do you love to bake, but don't want those naughty cookies calling your name from the kitchen? Do you like trying new and unusual recipes that you see online, but don't want those experiments to become BFFs with your hips or tummy? Well, here is your opportunity to rival the Food Channel on the weird and unusual or the cozy-comfy cookie creation while avoiding those awkward situations!

I do love to bake and try new recipes out on my unsuspecting friends and family. Just ask Greg how many times I serve him something for supper and say, "Good luck". However, there are plenty opportunities for everyone else to jump in and add to our gastronomical adventures.

If you would like to contribute cookies to coffee hour, please sign up on the list by the fish tank. Cookies and snacks will continue to appear, but I don't want to hog all the fun.

Thanks,
Mary Zuege

Fritos Bars Recipe

Printed Here by Popular Demand!

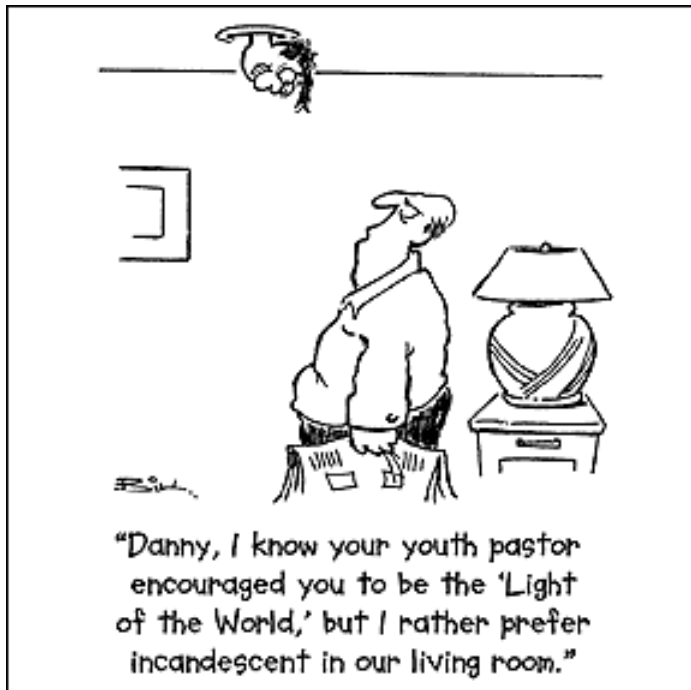
Frito Bars with Peanut Butter

Ingredients

1 ½ 10 oz bags of Fritos 1 cup peanut butter (any kind)
1 cup light corn syrup chocolate chips for sprinkling
1 cup granulated sugar toffee bits for sprinkling
Vanilla

Instructions

1. Grease a 9"X13" pan (I lined it with parchment paper too)
2. Pour Fritos into a large bowl
3. In a saucepan, combine the corn syrup and sugar over medium heat and bring to a boil. Whisk and cook until all the sugar dissolves.
4. Remove from stove and stir in the peanut butter and ½ Tablespoon vanilla.
5. Pour the peanut butter mixture over the Fritos and mix in until the Fritos are coated.
6. Turn the Fritos into the prepared pan; press down gently; sprinkle the toffee bits and chocolate chips over the warm, gooey Fritos.
7. Cool completely before cutting.



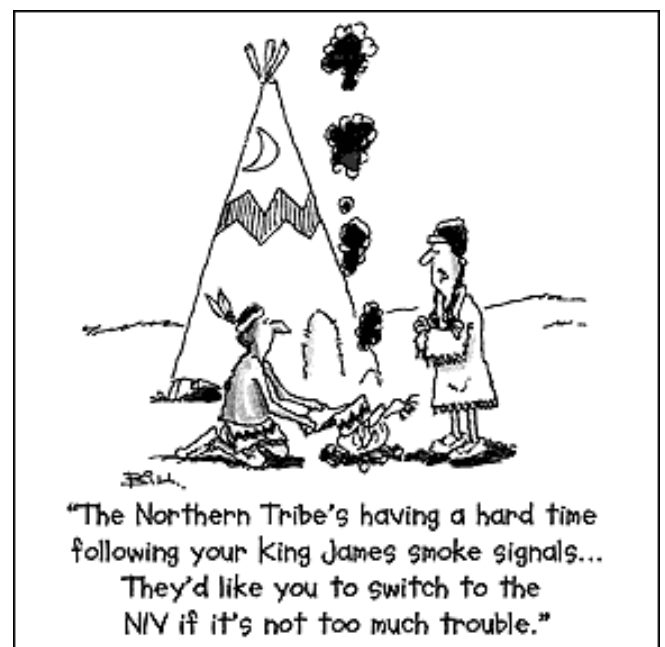
July/August Bible Trivia Questions

1. In the parable of the barren fig tree how many years has the owner come looking for fruit on the tree?
Answer: 3 (Luke 13:7)
2. There is a collection of Parables about lost things in Luke 15. The first is a loss of one sheep out of a hundred. The second is a loss of one coin out of time. The third is one son out of...? Answer: 2 (Luke 15:11)
3. In the parable of the rich fool what does he do to his barns to store more grain? Answer: Tear them down (Luke 12:18)
4. In the parable of the dishonest manager what does he do to win people's favor? Answer: Reduces their debts (Luke 16:5-7)

September Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the gospel readings chosen for worship in September.

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb a tree to see Jesus?
2. What was Zacchaeus' job?
3. What did Jesus disciples do when people brought children for Jesus to bless?
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?



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 3-8 Cello Lessons	3
4 <u>13th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion 11:30 Worship and Music Committee	5 <u>Labor Day</u>	6 3-7 Violin Lessons	7 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	8 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	9 3-8 Cello Lessons	10
11 <u>14th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Picnic 12:30 God's Work Our Hands Potato Harvest	12 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 3-7 Violin Lessons	14 <u>Holy Cross Day</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	15 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	16 3-8 Cello Lessons	17
18 <u>15th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	19 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 3-7 Violin Lessons	21 <u>Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	22 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	23 10:00 Monarch Homeschool Apple Pie Baking 3-8 Cello Lessons	24
25 <u>16th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	28 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons	29 <u>Michael and All Angels</u> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	30 3-8 Cello 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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The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

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Address Service Requested

September Newsletter

Sept. 11 – Rally Day

Parish Picnic

Potato Harvest