

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – Sept. 2025

Pastor's Paragraphs

Let's call this, "A Tale of Journeys and Wills." Our gospel reading on August 17 ended with a scene where some Pharisees warn Jesus about his journey to Jerusalem (Luke 13:31-35). In worship we focused on a different part of the reading, but this scene deserves a look too. Several word parallels are lost in the translation. Here it is in a more raw form and with the parallels in italics:

"At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, 'Go *journey* from here, for Herod *wills* to kill you.' He said to them, '*Journey* and tell that weasel, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my *journey*, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I *willed* to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not *willing*.'"

It is a conflict of journeys and wills. Which will Jesus follow? Will he play it safe and journey away from Jerusalem, or will he follow the will of God and do the dangerous thing of journeying to Jerusalem? We know the story. He follows the will of God and journeys to Jerusalem. There he will encounter Herod. And while Herod doesn't order his execution, he treats Jesus with contempt. Eventually he sends Jesus back to Pontus Pilate, who indeed does order that Jesus be executed.

This story brings a couple questions to us. Whose will are you following? And, where are you journeying in life? Are you seeking God's will and God's journey for you? Or, perhaps are you following your own will and creating a journey to suit your own agenda? To what extent are you following a political party or economic ideology?

Jesus calls Herod a "weasel," or it is often translated as "sly fox." Either way, both weasels and foxes are cunning killers. By contrast, Jesus says he is like a mother hen who gathers her brood under her wings. Even though following God's will may seem as treacherous to your life as a journey to Jerusalem was to Jesus, following God's will is what does bring you under

the shelter of his wings. That can be hard to believe, but it is true.

Our world is always inviting us to choose anything but God's will and God's journey for us. God's will and God's journey may appear to be too treacherous to be safe. Or perhaps God's will appears to be boring or too ordinary. Perhaps God's will seems too faint to discern; meanwhile the ways of the world are loud and clear. Whatever the case, the world is always inviting us out of the shelter of God's wings and into the realm of weasels.

Luke's gospel gives us guidance for all of this. We've heard it as we've been reading through it in worship. Jesus prays, and prays a lot! He also regularly takes time away to refocus. Following God's will wasn't easy and automatic for Jesus. We shouldn't expect it to be easy for ourselves.

And so, we pray. We stay focused. We work hard. We seek the security of God's kingdom and not the glory of this world. That will keep us within God's will and on the right journey.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Sept. 7 Rally Day

The 2025-26 Sunday school year begins on September 8.

We are resuming classes for all ages:

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

-7th – 8th grade, confirmation class.

-9th grade and above – This is to be decided. We may return to the dramatic video series, *The Chosen*, about

Jesus' disciples and the events in the world around
Jesus' ministry.

September Worship Assistants

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Greeters & Ushers	Rob Stroup	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Greg and Mary Zuege
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau	
Communion Assistants	Rob Stroup		Linda Flood	
Counters	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	John and Linda Thompson	Michele Myers & Anne Stromstad
Coffee Hour	God's Work Our Hands Lunch			



Upcoming Bible Readings from Luke for Worship

In September our gospel readings are coming from Luke 15-17. This continues accounts of Jesus' ministry in his long journey to Jerusalem. Tension grows as we go along. That tension leads to Jesus giving a series of teachings about money and priorities.

- 9/7 Luke 15
- 9/14 Luke 16
- 9/21 Luke 17:1-10
- 9/28 Luke 17:11-19



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)



2025 Church Garden Progress

The dry weather is impacting our garden this summer. We will likely have a decent harvest of potatoes for our God's Work, Our Hands Sunday project on September 7. There will be few pumpkins though. We are getting almost no sweet corn. The apples will be picked in October.



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday September 7 Potato Harvest

The potatoes should be ready to harvest on September 7, God's Work Our Hands Sunday. We'll also plant a cover crop over the garden for as much as is ready.

Community Outreach Committee

-Thanks so much to everyone that contributed to our "Maggie's Kids" day in July. The kids had a great time!
-We collected school supplies for The Spot. They supply free supplies to UPK through 2nd grade students in the Canandaigua and Victor school districts. We collected supplies all o August. Thanks so much for your help with this project.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers

We are looking for people to help mow the church lawn. There is a commercial mower that is easy to use, a zero turn mower, and a small lawn tractor. It usually takes a couple hours for a team of two. Training is available. Talk to Tom Urbanic if you're willing to help.



-Thank you to those who worked to replace the carpet in the pastor's office.
-Thank you to everyone who mowed the lawn in July and August.
-Thank you to those who gathered to dig the hole for the new cross in the Outdoor Chapel. A special thank you to Greg Welch for serving as the lead carpenter on making the cross.
Thank you to Nic Stuart and Mary Zuege for organizing the lunch for William Shi's last day as our pianist.
-Thank you to those who helped to raise the new cross in the Outdoor Chapel and for helping to backfill the hole.



-The family and friends of David Storch as they mourn his death.
- Alex Clark, friend of the Shulers. He is a 38 year old father who was recently diagnosed with stomach and intestinal cancer.
-Marilyn Bair who is currently home and is improving slightly in health.
-Paul Huber as he is home and recovering.
-Joy Lethbridge as she recovers from infections and surgery.
-Marcia Zavacki as she recovers from a broken hip.



Bible Studies Resuming

Our regular weekly Bible studies all resume in September:

-Women's Bible Study – Tuesdays at 1:00
-Men's Breakfast – Wednesday, September 3 at 8:30
-Lyons Church – Thursday, September 4 at 10:00. This study resumes at Proverbs 21.

August Council Highlights

The church council held its regular monthly meeting on August 11. Major items on the agenda were:
-plans for fellowship events in the fall
-approving funding to replace the parking lot lights, and possibly hold a capital fund drive to replenish those funds
-approve Dongwon Shin as our new pianist
-postpone the creation of the prayer labyrinth until October. The ground will hopefully be more workable then.



July/August Bible Trivia Answers

1. Jesus says not to fear those who can kill the body but those who can do what? Answer: he who has the power to cast into hell. (Luke 12:4)
2. In the parable of the rich fool, what does he plan to do to store all his crops? Answer: build larger barns (Luke 12:18)
3. How many were killed with the Tower of Siloam fell? Answer: 18 (Luke 13:4)
4. In the parable of the unproductive fig tree what does the gardener suggest/offer to do to get the tree to produce? Answer: dig around it and apply manure (Luke 13:8)

September Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All of the answers can be found in the Bible readings appointed for worship in September.

1. In the parable of the prodigal son, is it the older son or the younger son who leaves?
2. When Jesus cleanses ten lepers only one returns to give thanks. What was his nationality?
3. In the parable of the dishonest manager what does he do to win people's favor?

4. In the parable of the lost sheep the shepherd has lost one out of how many sheep?

Family Promise News

Golf to End Family Homelessness:

Come enjoy a day on the green for a great cause! Whether you're joining as a volunteer, bringing a team, or stepping up as a sponsor, we're excited to have you. Teams can look forward to lunch, raffles, fun contests, a celebratory banquet, and a golf cart for each team.

Cost of Golfer Registration- \$100 per person or \$400 per foursome

When- Saturday, September 6th, 2025

Where- Winged Pheasant Golf Course

What time- Registration starts at 11 am

Visit- <https://birdease.com/FamilyPromise>

Cruise for a Cause: Canandaigua Lady

The Canandaigua Lady's "Cruise for a Cause" helps raise money for local charities and organizations. These cruises are completely open to the public. A portion of the ticket sales and bar sales from the cruise on October 3rd will be donated to the featured cause, which will be Family Promise of Ontario County. They recommend arriving at 4pm. We will board at 4:15 to take off at 4:30pm sharp. The Canandaigua Lady is handicap accessible with two bathrooms onboard. They request that there is no outside food or beverage on the boat as they have a full-service bar where they sell snacks and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Tickets can be purchased directly from their website. Search in their event calendar October 3rd, 2025.

When- Friday, October 3rd, 2025

Where- Canandaigua Lady: 205 Lakeshore Drive, Canandaigua, NY 14424

What Time- 4:15pm boarding

Volunteer Need:

We still have a few volunteer spots open for our Golf Event! You can help with setup, raffle basket and 50/50 sales, or event takedown. We'd love to have you on the team! You can email Melissa at Mfarrell@fpocny.org or go to our golf landing page and check out as a volunteer!

Shelter Progress:

Our Shelter is making incredible progress! If you've visited the site recently, you've seen the transformation; drywall is up, walls are primed and painted, and it's truly starting to come to life. Next on the list: flooring, exterior work, and furnishing. After that, the only thing missing will be the families who will make it complete. While our goal is to open by year's end, we know many moving parts must come together but we're hopeful that, if all goes well, we may be able to welcome families home just in time for the holiday season. If you or members of your congregation or group would like to schedule a tour of the site, see our progress, or support our shelter campaign visit:

<https://www.familypromiseontariocounty.org/shelter-campaign>

A Story of Impact:

For months, one mom in our shelter apartment has been walking a mile to work and a mile home again. Her shift starts at 4:15 a.m., twelve long hours on her feet, before making that walk back to the place she currently calls home. Recently, her hard work paid off and she was able to buy a "new to her" vehicle. Even better, she could afford the road ready maintenance, registration, and insurance to make sure it's safe for her children.

Her first stop to share the news? Family Promise. We all went outside together to see her new car, congratulate her, and celebrate this milestone moment. For some of our families, the only support system they have is our staff, volunteers, and community partners and moments like this remind us just how much those connections matter.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for a mom in our shelter apartments who is navigating solo parenting and focusing on healthy relationships.
- Please keep in your prayers a family preparing to leave the Ronald McDonald House after months of stay, as they seek stable housing for their baby.
- Please keep the school aged children in our shelter apartments in your prayers as they begin a new school year. This season brings excitement, challenges, and big changes; your support means the world as they navigate it all.

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <u>Labor Day</u>	2 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	3 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	4 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	5	6
7 <u>13th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Picnic 1:30 God's Work Our Hands Potato Harvest	8 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	10 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	11 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	12 2-7 Cello Lessons	13 <u>Holy Cross Day</u>
14 <u>Holy Cross Day</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	15 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	17 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	18 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	19 2-7 Cello Lessons	20
21 <u>15th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	22 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	24 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	25 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	26 2-7 Cello Lessons	27
28 <u>16th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word 3:00 Fall Conference Assembly at Messiah, Greece	29 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	30 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons				



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.*

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September Newsletter

9/7 God's Work Our Hands Potato Harvest