

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – Sept. 2026

Pastor's Paragraphs

How do you define success? I suppose it varies with the person and with what they're trying to do. A plumber or electrician may define success as their work actually working. A stock broker may define success as outperforming the market. A politician may define success as whatever way they can spin things to make themselves look good.

So how do we define success in terms of the church and faith? Many would say that a church filled with worshippers on a Sunday is successful. Or perhaps a church with enough income to fund their budget would be defined as success. Maybe a church with large social ministry programs, or a large youth group, or a great music ministry would call themselves successful. From the perspective of personal faith, perhaps people would define success as fully believing in God, or having good morals, or always being able to trust God with things that are uncertain.

These faith/church definitions of success can easily be problematic. Since the beginning of Christianity there have been churches that were packed with people but that taught heresy. These days many people are drawn to churches with splashy worship and fancy programs, but are those churches really proclaiming the gospel? In terms of personal faith, many people live with struggles and doubts all the time. Is their faith unsuccessful?

A look at the life and ministry of Jesus' disciples gives us a mixed picture of what success could be. In some places they are bold and decisive. In other places they fail miserably. Ultimately none of them successfully stayed with Jesus when he was crucified. Yet the disciples went on to found the Church – the largest and longest-lasting organization ever.

So what is success? Perhaps I could say that we should just trust God fully and not worry about "success" at all. That would be an easy answer to make. It would be highly orthodox too! After all, the Church and our faith is securely in God's hands; and always will be. And yet, that sort of answer falls short. We are people who need reassurance. We need confirmation that we are doing things that are good and correct. We often consider "success" to be validation that we are right; and a lack of success as a message that we need to do better.

We've been reading through the book of Hebrews during worship this summer. Hebrews 13 ends the book and it gives us instructions for how to live. These instructions may or may not lead to what many people would call "success," but they are measure we can use for our faith. Here are some of the instructions:

13:1 – Let mutual love continue.

13:2 – Show hospitality to strangers.

13:3 – Remember those who are in prison and/or being tortured for their faith.

13:4 – Let marriage be held in honor by all.

13:5 – Keep your life free from the love of money.

13:7, 17 – Remember your faith leaders and pray for them.

13:8 – Do not be carried away by strange teachings.

The chapter wraps up the instructions with the reminder that all good things are rooted in God and come from God. Therefore, our praise and hope are always directed at God.

These instructions give us good and straightforward ways to confidently live out our faith. They can be difficult and sometimes we will fail. But they are solid things we can return to again and again to make sure our faith is successful.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Sept. 13 Rally Day

The 2026-27 Sunday school year begins on September 13. We are resuming classes for all ages:

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

-7th – 8th grade, confirmation class.

-9th grade and above – We'll use the video series, Elephants in Rooms, which dives into hot button issues that are usually oversimplified.

September Worship Assistants

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Greeters & Ushers	John and Linda Thompson	Sue Kaufmann	Helen Crown	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Sue Kaufmann		Sue Kaufmann	
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood		Mary Zuege	
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson	Burdie Gillern & Janice Lockwood	John and Linda Thompson	Michel Myers and Anne Stromstad
Coffee Hour			Chicken Barbeque	



Worship Readings for September

We'll finish our summer worship series on Hebrews mid way through September. Then we're turning to two of the historical books of the Old Testament: Ezra and Nehemiah. These may be obscure books to us, but they are stories of restoration after the exile of the Jews in Babylon.

September 6 – Hebrews 12

September 13 – Hebrews 13

September 20 – Ezra 1

September 27 – Ezra 3



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)

Pumpkin Harvest – September 20

In place of the

God's Work Our Hands Potato Harvest

Since the deer have destroyed most of our potato crop this year, but we expect to have a lot of pumpkins, we are rescheduling our harvest date to better suit the pumpkins. On Sunday, September 20th we'll harvest the pumpkins following the chicken barbeque. We expect to have a lot of pumpkins this year. Many hands make for light work. Talk to Pastor Jon for more information.

Chicken Barbeque – September 20

After the 10:30 service we'll have a chicken barbeque. (It'll be a good way to build energy for the pumpkin harvest afterward!) Please sign up in the gathering area so we know how many to prepare for. Talk to Jim Spawton for more information.

Thank You

-Thank you to everyone who helped with mowing the lawn in July and August.

-Thank you to everyone helped with weeding and tending the garden in July and August.

-Thank you to Tom Urbanic, John Thompson, Bruce Stevenson, and John Cipollina for installing the ceiling fans in the sanctuary.

-Thank you to John Cipollina for making various updates to the text of our website.

-Thank you to Gary Boisseau for servicing the fire alarm system.

-Thank you to Elizabeth Young for selling several long-unused items in the storage closet.

-Thank you to everyone who has given school supplies to the school supply drive thus far. "The Spot" is very happy to receive them.

Prayer Requests

- Nancy Shuler as she returns home from rehab.
- Paul Huber as he recovers from surgery.
- Patty Anderson, niece of Bruce Stevenson, who has congestive heart failure, declining kidney function, and diabetes.
- Artorius DeRuyter, infant son of Whitney (Stevenson) DeRuyter who as a heart condition which will be addressed with surgery soon.
- Lewey Emoge, infant acquaintance of Marci Zavacki, who has been diagnosed with cancer.



Idea: Rummage Sale?

We are looking to see how many people would be able to donate items for a possible rummage sale hosted by the church. Sign up with your interest on the sheet on the bulletin board in the gathering area. Talk to Nic Stuart for more information.

Serenity House Care-Giver Volunteers

Serenity House is a comfort care home for the terminally ill. They are looking for people who could volunteer as caregivers. There are four hour shifts that can suit your schedule. No medical background is necessary and training is provided. For more information contact Kayko Jarmusz at 585 924-5840 or serenityhousevictor@gmail.com

Finances (through 7/31/26)

YTD Income \$112,645

YTD Expenses \$107,419

Difference \$5,226

Thank you to you for your support this far through the year. We're keeping our belt tight to keep expenses below what we budgeted.

School Supply Drive

We're collecting school supplies for The Spot, which will help local school children. There will be a collection box at church until August 30. A flyer for the collection is on the usher's stand. Items are: Backpacks (17" or larger), Expo dry erase markers, wide ruled notebooks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, #2 pencils, glue sticks, kid scissors, 1" and 1.5" three ring binders w/pockets, Ply Folders w/prongs, block erasers, socks

and underwear. Contact Burdie Gillern for more information.

Garden Project 2026

The garden is a mixed bag. The sweet corn and potatoes have been decimated by the deer. Surprisingly the pumpkins are flourishing. The apple trees at church are having a good year and there will be many apples. Due to the lack of potatoes we will not do a big harvest project for God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Instead, a smaller group will be able to harvest them easily. If you're interested in helping with that please talk to Pastor Jon.

We do plan to have a major pumpkin picking event on Sunday, September 20th after the chicken barbeque. Come ready to harvest pumpkins!

August Council Highlights

Church council held its monthly meeting on August 10.

Major items on the agenda were:

- Vistors from the Victor Clothes Closet to discuss the possibility of it being housed in our Sunday school wing.
- Review of website updates.
- Distributing letters to the surrounding neighborhoods
- Review of committee actions and needs
- Approving Kenneth and Susan Paltridge for membership.



July/August Bible Trivia Questions

1. What king of Salem (with a strange name) met Abraham as he was returning from a battle? Answer: Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1)
2. According to Hebrews, there is no forgiveness without what? Answer: Shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22)
3. Why is Jesus able to sympathize with our weaknesses? Answer: He has been tested as we are. (Hebrews 4:15)
4. The word of God is sharper than _____. Answer: any two-edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12)

September Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. Hebrews says to endure trials for the sake of what?
2. What Persian king allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonians destroyed it?
3. What is the first holiday the Jews returning to Jerusalem from Babylon celebrated?
4. How many years after the Jews returned did they begin to rebuild the temple?



Golf to End Family Homelessness



September 12th, 2026

Winged Pheasant Golf Links

1475 Sand Hill Road
Shortsville, NY 14548

Single Player
\$100

Foursome
\$400

Schedule

7 am: Check in, Breakfast
and Putting Contest

8 am: Shot Gun Start

12:30 pm: Banquet

1 pm: Awards



For More Information

www.familypromiseontariocounty.org

or call 585-905-3988



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8:00 – 5:30 Life Line Screening 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	3	4	5
6 <u>15th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	7 <u>Labor Day</u>	8 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	10 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	11 2-7 Cello Lessons	12 7:00 Family Promise Golf Event
13 <u>16th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	14 <u>Holy Cross Day</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	16 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	17 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	18 2-7 Cello Lessons	19
20 <u>17th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Chicken Barbeque 12:30 Pumpkin Harvest	21 <u>St. Matthew, Evangelist</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	23 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	24 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	25 2-7 Cello Lessons	26
27 <u>18th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	28 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 <u>Michael and All Angels</u> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	30 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous			



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

888 County Rd. 9

Victor, NY 14564

The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

September Newsletter

20 Chicken Barbeque and
Pumpkin Harvest