

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – December 2016

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

I have two things I want to mention here this month. One is serious and the other more fun. First the serious one. The recent presidential election did nothing to lower the tensions that were building before the election. I suspect the tensions would have continued regardless of the outcome. Whether the election results surprised you or not, we seem to be a nation that is divided. How that division should be addressed is not mine to say. However it should be said that those divisions must be addressed with the God-given integrity of others in mind. Hate speech should never be accepted in our country. Dehumanizing any person is always a sin. It is both our right and our responsibility as Americans, and especially as followers of Christ, to call others to account when their words, actions and desires tear down the value of others. This accountability goes for both our political adversaries as well as our friends. Personally I've heard enough hatred from both sides of the spectrum to be appalled, and I've called people out on it. I hope you'll do the same.

Now for something more light-hearted. Following the church year is always frustrating at this time of year. While our culture is celebrating Christmas from before Thanksgiving all the way through December, the church stubbornly insists that Christmas not be celebrated before December 24th. By then most everyone is so sick of Christmas they just want to quit! To make matters worse there are several holidays in the twelve-day-long Christmas season. These holidays take precedence over the Christmas season, so many years we don't even celebrate Christmas during Christmas!

You may remember from my article last month that we are departing from the church year calendar starting with November 27th. We're going to use what is called a "narrative lectionary" at least until Easter. We'll be reading through the gospel of Matthew from start to

finish by the end of April. This means we'll be focusing on Jesus' birth on December 4th. We'll read about the coming of the magi on December 11th. In other words, worship will be more in sync with what we're experiencing in the world outside of church.

My theologically astute side knows my seminary professors would have my hide for allowing this. My practical side says that textbook righteousness never helped anyone! My practical side is winning, but not entirely. If you've looked ahead on your calendars you know that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. Many people have asked if we'll have just one service. I've said no. Christmas is the festival of the incarnation, coming third behind Good Friday and Easter in importance. It's absurd to cut back on worship when you're celebrating your chief holidays! I hope the light of Christ will be alive and bright in you throughout this holiday season!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



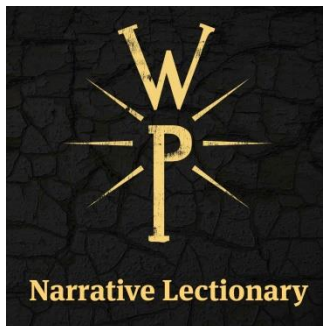
Jacob the Patriarch Adult Sunday School

Beginning November 27th we'll look at the life of Jacob the patriarch of Israel. He pulled off many underhanded schemes, but was also taken advantage of himself. He was strong yet his three wives and their slaves always managed to outmaneuver him. For most of his life he was a manipulative coward, but God develops him into a strong and courageous leader. You're invited to join in any or all of the weeks.

Worship

December Worship Assistants

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Greeters & Ushers	Rob & Laura Stroup	John & Linda Thompson	Gary & Kim Boisseau	Volunteer
Lector	Susie Maynard (8:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30)	Volunteer
Acolyte	Sam Erhlinger	Scott Wilmot	Jaden White	Ben Deibler
Altar Care	Linda Thompson			Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann & Linda Flood			Volunteer
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle	Beth Perdan	Beth Perdan	
Counters	Bruce Boncke & Art Fields	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Ethan & Alyssa Minkel	John & Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Marcia Zavacki	Judy Sax & Babette Huber	Sue Kaufmann	No Coffee Hour



10:30 Worship Begins the Narrative Lectionary

Beginning November 27th we'll begin reading the gospel of Matthew in worship from start to finish. The plan is to complete it shortly after Easter. Some weeks we will read just a few verses. Other weeks we'll cover a few chapters. Pastor Jon's sermons will have more of a Bible study style.

Matthew's Formula Quotes at 8:30

Matthew's gospel contains more Old Testament references than any other New Testament book, 294 in all! Fourteen of those references are called the "Formula Quotes" where Matthew picks up an Old Testament prophesy and shows how it relates to Jesus. Each week in Advent we'll look at a different quote.



7:00 and 11:00 Candlelight Holy Communion



Christmas Day Holy Communion

December 25th falls on a Sunday this year. To celebrate both the 8:30 and 10:30 services will include communion.

Sanctuary Seating for Advent and Christmas

For the seasons of Advent and Christmas we will arrange the sanctuary pews into a U shape. The advent wreath will be placed in the center of the room where it will count down the Sundays to Christmas.

Service

Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop **What Every Church Member Should Know** **About Poverty**

As we engage in ministries and invite the poor into our congregation, many issues can arise. Please consider attending a powerful workshop that addresses some of the issues that faith-based communities face in dealing with individuals from poverty. The session is also intended to continue the conversation about how congregations can better serve the poor. Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at St. Bridget's Church in Bloomfield. For more details and to register go to www.familypromiseontariocounty.org.

Community Outreach Projects

- Thanks to everyone who contributed food or money to the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard Thanksgiving Baskets. Also thanks to everyone who volunteered. 580 Baskets were distributed on November 17.
- The Christmas Gift Lists are up from Sunday, November 20 until Sunday, December 11. Gifts will be given to families in need in the Victor and Canandaigua school districts.
- The mitten tree will also be going up. Your donations of scarves, gloves, mittens and hats will go to the VICTIM Resource Center in our area. Please bring in your donations by December 11.
- GIVE AROUND VICTOR DAY needs freshly washed blankets, clothing, boots, and coats for the clothing drive to benefit clients of the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard and all residents of the Victor Farmington Community. A poster is posted in the Gathering Area with times and locations for drop off. Volunteers to help set up and staff the event to be held December 17 from 7:45-1:00 at the Victor Town Hall are also needed; a sign up sheet and contact information is also posted in the Gathering Area. St. John's is also hosting the Christmas Food Distribution of the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard on Saturday, December 17 from 8:00 to Noon. If you want to volunteer to help with that event, contact Linda Flood.

Clothing Collection for Give Around Victor Day

All sizes of clean useable clothing are wanted for Give Around Victor Day, December 17th. If you have items to contribute please take them to 1st Presbyterian Church from 9:30 to 2 Mondays-Thursdays, 9-1 Sundays, or to Victor Town Hall on December 15th from 9-7. Contact Dina Strasser at dinaeliz@gmail.com or 585 734-8300 for more information.



- Thank you to everyone who provided bread for the election day bake sale, and thank you to everyone who helped to staff the sale table.
- Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with snowplowing and shoveling this winter.
- Thanks to Ranks IGA in Canandaigua for donating two shopping carts.
- Thank you to everyone who provided coffee hour in November.
- Thank you to the Stewardship and Finance Committee for organizing the 2017 pledge drive.
- Thank you to everyone who donated food to the Thanksgiving baskets for the food cupboard.
- Thank you to everyone who provided food for the dinner we provided for the RIT campus ministry.
- Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for organizing the annual Thanksgiving dinner, and thank you to everyone who made food.
- Thank you to John Thompson and John Cipollina for installing new lights in front of the building and for completing various other projects.



Prayer Concerns

The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester. Also the Rev. Eric and the Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo as they work in Malaysia. Gordon and Gail Holbig as they both have health problems. Fred Trost as he lives with Parkinsons Linda Ellis who has metastases on her spine and hip. Jim Lethbridge who continues to recover from shoulder surgery. Amy Plouffe who was recently diagnosed with cancer in a couple areas of her body. Marian Strickland, friend of the Boisseaus who has breast cancer and is awaiting treatment. Joshua Sussan, 22 year old friend of the Boisseaus with heart problems and cancer in his chest.

Service (Cont.) **SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING NEWS**

As in previous years our Sunday School has designated that their Sunday School offering goes to specific places.

This year, to date, \$200 has been sent to the ELCA for disaster relief in Haiti.

Another \$200 was used to purchase items for snack packs. These packs are distributed to over 200 students on long holiday weekend. These students are from 91 families in our area.

Many, many thanks to our young people for their generosity. We are serving our world and our community. Keep up the good works!

Jim Nohe Memorial Blood Drive

Our own Jim Nohe was one of the all-time highest donors of blood and blood components. To remember his incredible donation record the Red Cross is holding a special blood drive in his memory. It takes place December 5th from 2 to 7. Please consider donating. Appointments can be made at redcross.org. We're also looking for people to staff the canteen table and to donate cookies. Talk to Pastor Jon for more information.

Nuts and Bolts **Financial Information**

	Income	Expenses	Difference
Year to Date (as of			
October 31)	166,284.72	170,138.74	(3,854.02)

Annual Meeting Agenda

All items of business or theology for the annual meeting must be turned in to the church office by December 31st.

Annual Reports

All committee reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office by December 31st. Email or electronic versions are preferred. You can email your report to: sjlcvector@gmail.com

New Members and Directory Updates

Please welcome our newest members, William and Nancy Hagerman! Their contact information is:
68 Bent Oak Trail
Fairport, NY 14450
585 223-6841
nervousnjh@yahoo.com

Directory Updates:

Don and Ellen Curtis
Heather Height
160 W. Jefferson Rd.
Pittsford NY 14534

Emmy Gelb
40 Crossing Creek Dr.
Fairport NY 14450
House Phone: 585 223-0160

Jeanette Hare
Fairport Baptist Home
4646 Nine Mile Point Rd. Room G109A
Fairport NY 14450

Gordon and Gail Holbig
50 Union Square Blvd.
North Chili NY 14514-9723

November Council Highlights

We remain caught up on all bills! Thank you!
We approved having a street light installed by RG&E to give light to the church parking lot entrance. There is no installation cost and the annual operating expense will be less than \$200.

The 2017 pledge drive is underway and will conclude on November 20th.

The mortgage interest rate is due for renewal. The Stewardship and Finance committee is working with the Mission Investment Fund to lower the rate slightly. The sanctuary will have U shaped seating for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

A draft budget for 2017 was reviewed.

Three council positions will be opening at the beginning of 2017.

🚩 Nuts and Bolts (Cont.) 🚩

11/20 Congregational Meeting

Decisions

Two actions were approved at the special congregational meeting on November 20th. One, we conditionally approved becoming a “host congregation” for the Family Promise program to aid homeless families. The condition is to know the costs we may incur in order to meet local regulations for the building and its use. Two, we approved hiring Springline Design to create engineering drawings for a bell tower. Their design will be presented at the annual meeting for approval. Several constitutional amendments were presented and will also be voted on at the annual meeting. For the full text of these amendments please see Pastor Jon.

Fun



Gingerbread House Competition

Our 6th annual gingerbread house competition is scheduled for Sunday December 11th at noon. The walls (graham crackers) and glue (frosting) will be provided. Each family is asked to bring candy for decorating. Let's see how creative we can be! Judging categories will be decided that day – so you can't premeditate a strategy! Never built a gingerbread house? That's okay, half of the houses usually collapse before judging! Sign up in the Gathering Area; lunch will be provided.

Sanctuary Tree Decorations

This year we'll again have a congregational Christmas tree! Everyone is invited to bring a tree ornament from home to hang on our tree. We'll do our best to keep them safe and have everyone retrieve their ornaments after the Christmas season, but we can't make any guarantees. So don't bring anything too valuable or irreplaceable. Also, it is a church tree, so gaudy Santa Claus and the like probably won't fit it very well. The tree will be set up after worship on December 11th so you can bring your ornament then or the next Sunday. Talk to Pastor Jon for more information.

December Birthdays

1	Gregory Bright
6	Noah Brown
7	Knute Halverson
8	Kenneth Kusel, Hanna Boisseau
15	Jeremy Mann
16	Julia Bullwinkle, Jennifer White
17	Rudy Stroup
23	Stephen Christie, Harry Braunlich
27	Donald Phillips, Christine Centola
31	Linda Ellis, Laura Szydlowski, Grace Kravetz, Emma Kravetz



November Bible Trivia Answers– Houses of Worship

1. What gruesome object did the Philistines fasten in the temple of Dagon? Answer: King Saul's head (1 Chronicles 10:10)
2. Which goddess had a notorious temple at Ephesus? Answer: Diana (or Artemis) (Acts 19:27-28)
3. Why did John not see a temple in the new Jerusalem? Answer: God and the Lamb are the temple (Revelation 21:22)
4. According to Paul, who is called to be the temple of God? Answer: All believers (1 Corinthians 6:19)

December Bible Trivia Questions – Encounters with Angels

1. What was the name of the angel that appeared to Mary and Zacharias?
2. How many angels rescued Lot and his family from Sodom?
3. What apostle was released from prison by an angel who opened the prison's iron gate?
4. Although Balaam couldn't see the angel, his talking donkey could. What was the angel holding that made the donkey turn away?

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Monarch Homeschool 7:00 Worship & Music Committee 7:00 Girl Scouts	2 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons 4:00-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	3
4 <u>2nd Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	5 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 2-7 Jim Nohe Memorial Blood Drive 3-8 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	7 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	8 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers 7:00 Girl Scouts	9 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons 4:00-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	10
11 <u>3rd Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	13 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	14 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	15 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers	16 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons 4:00-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	17 Give Around Victor Day – Food distribution from St. John's.
18 <u>4th Sunday in Advent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 String Concert	19 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Comm.	21 <u>St. Thomas, Apostle</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	22 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers	23 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Club	24 <u>Nativity of Our Lord,</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> 7:00 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion
25 <u>Nativity of Our Lord,</u> <u>Christmas Day</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Holy Communion	26 <u>Stephen, Deacon</u> <u>and Martyr</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Club 10:00 Holy Yoga	27 <u>John, Apostle and</u> <u>Evangelist</u> 7:00-9:30 YMCA Fun Club 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	28 <u>The Holy Innocents,</u> <u>Martyrs</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Club 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	29 7:00-9:30 YMCA Fun Club 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers	30 7:00-9:30 YMCA Fun Club	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u>