

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – December 2018

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

I'm tired of the Christmas season, and it's not even Thanksgiving yet! (Maybe I'm turning into a real humbug!) I suppose some of it is seeing Christmas merchandise in stores since before Halloween. And there has been Christmas music on the airwaves for weeks now. I truly get tired of the run up to Christmas being the entire 4th quarter of the year! Yet there is something more. I think our culture has lost the ability to find fulfillment in just about everything. And so we start preparing for holidays earlier and earlier. We add more hype and decorations; hoping that will help catch the feeling of a holiday. Yet it eludes us. Many people now decorate for Halloween more than they used to for Christmas. And for Christmas they go to absurdity! If all our work and decorating led to a truly celebrating a holiday I'd say it was all well and good. But it feels like people are exhausted before the holiday even arrives. And before it arrives they're already looking forward to the next thing. This year I noticed Halloween decorations showing up in the clearance aisles a week before October 31. Last year I saw Valentines cards and hearts hitting the shelves in mid-December. I'm not criticizing retailers. They know their customers, and they know when to put what on the shelves to maximize sales. When people are shopping for Valentines day cards and candy a week before Christmas that should tell you something!

Christmas can give us a good antidote to all this. Christmas reminds us that it isn't about lights, or parties or cookies, or who has the biggest blow-up lawn decoration on your street. Christmas is about relationships; pure and simple relationships at that.

I'm sure you know the Christmas story well enough to know how simple and plain it was. We do well not to add more glory to our Christmas pageants than there really was. The Christmas story we're most familiar with comes from Luke's gospel. Luke starts off that story by reminding us where the story is NOT taking place and who is NOT being notified. It is not taking

place in Rome or any major city – not even in mediocre Jerusalem. It is taking place in Bethlehem, a town of no account. The Roman emperor and the provincial governor aren't told about it. Shepherds were. We might say the appearance of the "heavenly host" was a major bit of glory, and that would be right. But since they only appeared to shepherds, it served no grand purpose.

We can learn two things from the Christmas story. One, God comes to us in the ordinary, not the spectacular. Two, God is interested in routine day-to-day relationships with people. God does not require the red carpet treatment, or fanfares, or decorations. God simply wants to be in relationship with people.

If you are like me in that you are tired of Christmas already, remember that it's based in God's desire for relationship with you. From there we build relationship with each other. If you want a good and meaningful holiday season don't focus on the decorations, the cookies, and the parties. Instead focus on being with the people around you: your family, your neighbors, your friends, and others. Don't work to make it be a special time with them. Allow it to be an ordinary time with them. It's mean less stress, more relationship building, and a more fulfilling holiday.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



New Church Year – Luke's Gospel

The 2019 Church Year begins December 2. All next year we'll be reading from the Gospel According to St. Luke. You'll find that Luke is a very skilled storyteller. His record of Jesus' ministry is easy to read and understand.

For the last couple years we've chosen one of the gospels and completely read it between Advent and Easter. With Luke, however, we won't cram it all in, but read it more slowly throughout the year.

Growth (Cont.)

Christian Education Groups and Opportunities

You're never too old to learn! While we all know about Sunday school for little children, our Christian education doesn't end there. Don't forget these groups!

Adult Sunday school – currently studying Luke during the Sunday school hour.

High School – originates at church at the beginning of the Sunday school hour and then travels to Tim Hortons of Dunkin Donuts to study the book *Free to Be Men's Breakfast* – meets Wednesdays at 8:30 and is currently studying Luke

Women's Bible Study – meets Thursdays at 1:00 and is currently using a variety of books and resources. Pick a group and join in!

Worship

December Worship Assistants

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
Greeters & Ushers	Karen & Jim Spawton	Mike & Cassie Ross	Sally Mansfield & Helen Crown	Laura & Rob Stroup	Tom & Lisa Kurilovitch
Lector	Ann King (8:30)	Janet Reese (8:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30)	Susie Maynard (8:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30)
Acolyte	Hanna Stroup	Abbie Bullwinkle	Olivia DeLeon	Joe Wyman	Tierney White
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Cindy Swigart & Adele Garvey		Sue Kaufmann & Linda Flood		Nancy & Ivan Shuler
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan	Laura Stroup	Katy Stimmel	Judy VanDeVelde	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Nancy & Ivan Shuler	Bruce Boncke & Art Fields	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Bruce & Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	Wendy Sackett & Linn Griffo	Tricia Kolczynski	Babette Huber		Joy Lethbridge, Ella Schuller, & Becky Nohe

Sanctuary Seating for Advent and Christmas

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



Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 and 11:00 Candlelight Holy Communion

Worship (Cont.)

Special Music for Worship

Most weeks the worship band provides special music while the offering is being gathered. We're looking for others who will share their musical talent as well. Maybe you're a student looking for more performance time and you want a friendly audience. Or maybe that high school instrument is calling to you from its closet shelf. Or maybe there's a Christian song you've heard and you just can't keep from singing it. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and share your gifts for the glory of God. Talk to Heidi Griffith if you want to know more.



December Worship Texts

December 2 (Advent 1) – Luke 1:1-38
December 9 (Advent 2) – Luke 1:39-6-38
December 16 (Advent 3) – Luke 1:39-80
December 23 (Advent 4) – Christmas Play
December 24 (Christmas Eve) – Luke 2:1-20
December 30 – Luke 2:21-40

Nuts and Bolts

Financial Update

As of October 31
YTD Income \$176,447.62
YTD Expenses \$174,809.61
Difference \$1638.01

Financial Pledge Reminder

A big thanks to all of you who make financial commitments to St. John's! We greatly appreciate your generosity. As we near the end of the calendar year, I would kindly ask you to make every effort to fulfill your financial pledges. We have done well this year, so let's finish 2018 strong!
Rob Stroup, Treasurer

Stewardship Drive

Even though the date has passed for our Stewardship drive for 2019 commitments, we will still take your pledge! Please take a few minutes and consider your response to support our various ministries. As we plan our budget over the next month or so, it is critical to know what income we can expect. We foresee our annual budget increasing 4%, so your response is critical to help sustain our programs, maintain our facility, and serve those in need. See Dave Bullwinkle, Rob Stroup, or Tim Brown if you have questions.

-Submitted by Tim Brown

Notes from the 11/12 Council Meeting

- Discussed "anchor church" concepts and results of Pastor's attendance at a conference in Charlotte, NC
- Will continue to consider this option, in consultation with the Bishop, for us to support congregations that are struggling
- Assigned action item for continued review of the music director job description
- Denied request from Finger Lakes Vendors to hold craft/product sale on Sunday mornings from 9-12
- Received report that the Election Day bake sale generated \$175 profit
- Reviewed Council vacancies for 2019 - including those moving away we could have 5 openings
- Considering move of the regular meeting date and time to accommodate conflicts
- Planning a "God's Work Our Hands" bulletin board near the church entry
- Finished addressing Stewardship letters for those that didn't pick up from their mailbox

Submitted by Tim Brown



Service

Community Outreach Committee



Christmas Gifts for Families in Need – The Christmas gift lists will be up from November 18 to December 9th. The gifts will be given to families in the Victor and Canandaigua school districts. Please be sure to bring your gift to church and place it under the tree in the Gathering Area on or before December 9th. If there are any gift cards please put them in Burdie Gillern's mail slot at church.

Mitten Tree – We will collect hats, mittens, scarves and gloves. They will be given to the Victim Resource Center in Newark.

Thanks so much to everyone that contributed food or money to the Food Cupboard Thanksgiving Baskets. Over 700 baskets were given out this year.



Victor / Farmington Food Cupboard

DAY OF GIVING 2018 – Saturday, December 15, 9-Noon

Flyers listing all of the events of this day sponsored by the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard are posted on the bulletin boards in the church. They include Books on Beds, Foodbaskets, Free breakfast and dinners and haircuts, a clothing giveaway, Angel Tree Gifts, Christmas Stockings and a distribution of Hats, Scarves, Mittens and Gloves.

St. John's part in the day is serving as the distribution center for 400 food baskets for local families in need not served by St. Patrick's food distribution. Our help as church members is needed especially from 11:00-1:00 for cleanup and getting the church back into shape for worship the next day. Other volunteers are needed throughout the morning to load cars, etc. If you want to help or even make a donation contact: Brian Lindsay at bcl5931@aol.com. Questions check with Linda Flood

Thank you 

- Thank you to everyone who baked for the Election Day bake sale. Also thank you to everyone who helped to staff it. We made \$175 for World Hunger.
- Thank you to the worship band for filling in on Reformation Sunday when Heidi was on vacation.
- Thank you to everyone who baked or provided the delicious pies for Pie Sunday!
- Thank you to Mike Ross for ordering the snow blower we can use to clear the sidewalks more easily.
- Thank you to Tom Urbanic and John DeLeon for shoveling and plowing the snow on November 15.
- Thank you to everyone who provided food for the RIT campus ministry dinner.

Prayer 
Request

- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester. Also the Rev. Eric and the Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo in Malaysia.
- Amy Plouffe, who is home but weak from cancer.
- Gary Myers who is being treated for multiple myeloma. He is doing well and is responding to the treatments
- Linda Ellis who continues to monitor her cancer issues.
- Bob Stroup, Rob Stroup's dad, who has been suffering from dementia and other health problems.
- Linda Roy, sister of Helen Crown, who has metastatic breast cancer.
- Knute Halvorson, who recently began struggling more with severe back and leg pain.
- Don Curtis, who has moved into a nursing home.



Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under \$12. Questions about this event can be directed to Jim Spawton.

Service (Cont.)



FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

Our next week for hosting Family Promise is Sunday, Dec. 30th through Sunday, Jan 5th. Please visit Singup.com (link on our website home page) to sign up to sign up for volunteering and/or prociding supplies. Although we have blankets, we would like to add comforters to each bed for the winter months. Twin sized comforters can either be donated to the church or loaned to us for the week. We are looking to collect 14 comforters.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are about getting deals.

#GivingTuesday is about giving back.

Together, we are creating a new tradition.

Tuesday November 27th 2018

How will you give?

www.familypromiseonatriocounty.org/donate

Crafting A Pathway Home

Christmas Wood Poles

\$30 per person

Dec 7th

6:00-8:30pm

Willowbrook Christian Church, Victor NY

Register by email:
fpocweb@fpocny.org

4x4x32" Pole

Fun



Gingerbread House Competition

Our 8th annual gingerbread house competition is scheduled for Sunday December 9th 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! The gingerbread houses will be displayed during coffee hour December 16 and the congregation can vote on their favorite for each category. 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.



November Bible Trivia Answers

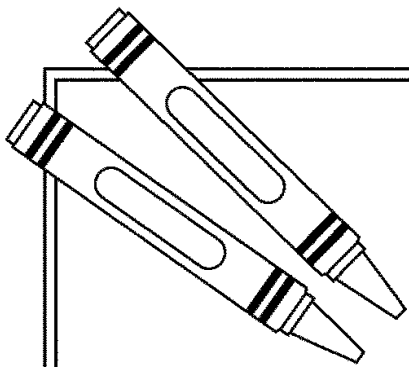
1. Before the crucifixion and resurrection did Jesus siblings believe in him? Answer: No (John 7:5)
2. Where did Jesus say, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone"? Answer: The temple in Jerusalem (John 8:2-7)
3. Who asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Answer: Pilate (John 18:33)
4. What was the punishment for adultery in Jesus' day? Answer: Execution (John 8:4-5, Leviticus 20)

December Bible Trivia Questions

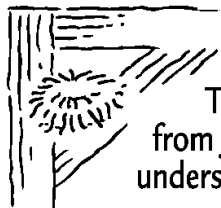
1. Which two gospels contain a genealogy for Jesus?
2. What two elderly people meet Joseph and Mary when they take Jesus to the temple after his birth?
3. What angel came to Mary to tell her of Jesus' conception?
4. Who was born first, John the Baptist or Jesus?

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	3 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	5 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	6 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study Property Committee: Decorate church for Christmas	7 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	8 Christmas Ceilidh Band –Fund Raiser for Family Promise of Ontario County, 7:00
9 <u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Gingerbread House Competition	10 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 8:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	12 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Band Practice 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	13 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	14 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	15 Victor Farmington Food Pantry Christmas Basket Distribution 9:00-12:00
16 <u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	17 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	18 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	19 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	20 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	21 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	22
23 <u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Children's Christmas Program	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> 7:00 & 11:00 Candlelight Holy Communion	25 <u>Christmas</u>	26 <u>Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	27 <u>John, Apostle and Evangelist</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs	28 <u>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs	29 9:00-12:00 Vipassina Meditation
30 <u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u>					



Just for KIDS



A Christmas Legend

There are many legends-stories-that have come from Jesus' humble birth in the stable. They can help us understand the love of God sent to us in this special baby.



CODE	B	C	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	P	Q	R	S	T	V	W	X	Y	Z
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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

(585) 924-5192

www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

December Newsletter

December 8 Christmas Ceilidh Band

December 9 Gingerbread House Competition

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship 7 & 11