

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – December 2019

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

There are how many shopping days left until Christmas? I don't know, and I suppose it varies with whatever day you read this!

For Christmas many people head to stores to buy gifts. Many will take my favorite approach, which is to sit in front of a computer in the comfort of my own home and order all the gifts online. Some will use their time and skills to make the gifts they give.

Whatever form your shopping takes I encourage you to think about who actually made those items and where they came from. Even if you hand make all your gifts you've bought materials from somewhere. (Unless, of course, you plan to dig up rocks from your backyard and give them as gifts!) I also encourage you to pray for the people who's work actually made those gifts.

My guess is that most families will have gifts made all over the world under their Christmas trees. To be certain, some will have been made by people who were paid decent wages and who worked in good conditions. And some of those things will have been made through exploiting people. My intention here is not to make us feel guilty. Rather, it is to realize and celebrate all the many people whose labors make our lives possible. Someone created or mined the raw materials for the gifts. Someone had to actually assemble the products; or at least oversee the robotic assembly line that made them. Someone did the shipping. Someone did all the office work. Depending on the gift, maybe someone wrote the software. And on and on the list could go. Many people have a hand in making our lives work. We easily overlook them. But we shouldn't. God knows and sees them all. They are all made in the image of God and children of God. We should recognize and appreciate the work that they have done. And hopefully someone will also recognize the work that we have done. Blessings,
Pastor Jon

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 using the video course *Servant or Sucker*

High School – originates at church at the beginning of the Sunday school hour and then travels to Tim Hortons or Dunkin Donuts to study the book *Free to Be*

Men's Breakfast – meets Wednesdays at 8:30 and is currently studying *Adult Crossings*, *God's Journey with us*.

Women's Bible Study – meets Thursdays at 1:00 and is currently using the book *Called* by Susan Robb. a variety of books and resources.

Pick a group and join in!



2020 Stewardship Drive

Our 2020 stewardship drive begins with on Sunday October 27th and runs through December 1. While we'll accept pledges any time, in order to encourage you to return your materials by the deadline we're again having a little competition. Please return your pledge with your eagle symbol by December 1 to be counted in the tally. The team with the most eagles returned is flying highest and wins! Talk to Tim Brown for more information.

Worship

December Worship Assistants

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Greeters & Ushers	Rob and Laura Stroup	Jim and Karen Spawton	Sally Mansfield & Helen Crown	John and Gay Card	Phyllis and Dick Henderson
Lector	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30)	Mary Zuege (8:30)	Ann King (8:30)	Janet Reese (8:30)	Ann King (8:30)
Acolyte	Rudy Stroup	Jacob Kurilvitch	Jonathan Buch	Abbie Bullwinkle	Creed White
Altar Care	Linda Thompson		Linda Thompson		
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Connie Stevenson		Sarah DeMuzio and Tricia Kolczynski		
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Judy VanDeVelde	Beth Perdan	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Counters	John and Linda Thompson	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman	Nancy and Ivan Shuler	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	Urbanics/Stimmels	Becky, Ella, Joy	Liz Brown and Linda Thompson		



New Church Year – Matthew's Gospel

The 2020 Church Year begins December 1. From December 1 through Easter we'll be reading Matthew's entire gospel from start to finish, with one exception: We'll pull the Sermon on the Mount out of order and explore it during the Easter season. Reading Matthew like this makes sense. It is intended to be an ongoing story, not heard as a collection of snippets.

In December we'll read:

December 1 (Advent 1) - Matthew 1:1-17

December 8 (Advent 2) - Matthew 1:18-25

December 15 (Advent 3)- Matthew 2:1-18

December 22 (Advent 4) - Children's Christmas Program

December 24 (Christmas Eve) – Luke 2:1-14

December 29 - Matthew 2:19-23

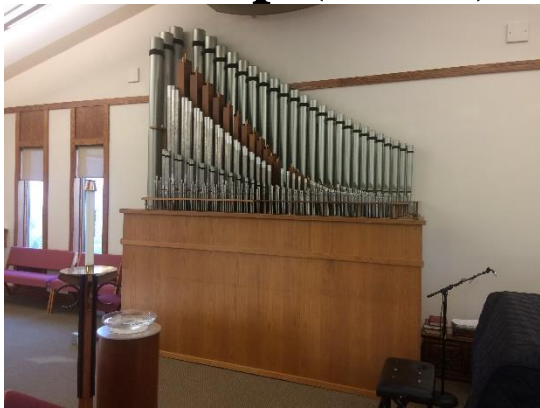
Sanctuary Seating for Advent and Christmas

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.)



January 19 - Organ Rededication

The organ we received from Trinity Lutheran in East Rochester is complete! It is scheduled to be rededicated on Sunday January 19 at the 10:30 service. Caroline Robinson, organist at St. Paul's in Pittsford and a doctoral student in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, will be playing for the service. Come and hear this old instrument as it breathes back to life.

Nuts and Bolts

Financial Update

As of October 31
YTD Income \$178,911.01
YTD Expenses \$178,188.51
Difference \$722.50

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 2019 strong!

Rob Stroup, Treasurer

Address Updates

Please make these updates in your church directory:
Curt and Anne Stromstad
6332 Murphy Drive
Victor, NY 14564 (863) 229-6925

And there's been some confusion about Knute Halvorson's address. Here it is again:

Knute Halvorson
2006 Five Mile Line Rd.
Penfield, NY 14526 (585) 385-9486

Service



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Amy Plouffe, who is home and stable but continuing cancer treatments.
- 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 continues in hospice care.
- Linda Flood, who is in a nursing home for therapy to improve after complications from sinus surgery.
- Knute Halvorson, who is living in Aria Nursing Home in Penfield.

Community Outreach Committee THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thanks to everyone that brought in food or gave donations for the Victor Farmington Thanksgiving baskets. Over 200 baskets were given to families in our area!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR AREA FAMILIES

We will be proving gifts for families in the Victor school district only this year. The gift charts are currently posted. Please take a tag and then write your name and phone number on the chart. The deadline for the gifts to be at church is Sunday December 15th.

MITTEN TREE

The mitten tree collection dates are the same as the Christmas gifts (above). The donations will go to the Victim Resource Center in Newark

Questions can be directed to Burdie Gillern.

Celtic Christmas Concert – December 14, 7:00pm

We are pleased to host the Celtic band again this year as a Family Promise fundraiser. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Also, donations for cookies would be greatly appreciated. Please see the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area. Tickets are available from Jim Spawton.

Service (Cont.)

Thank you



- Thank you to Tom Urbanic for plowing snow on November 12.
- Thank you to everyone who provided a pie for Pie Sunday.
- Thank you to Helen Crown for her work organizing the 2020 stewardship drive.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the Property Committee's fall clean-up day.
- Thank you to the youth and parents who helped create and staff our Trunk or Treat display. And thanks to all who provided candy.
- Thank you to Heidi Griffith for her years of service as our music director.
- Thank you to John CiPollina, Bruce Stevenson, and John Thompson for making various repairs around the building.
- Thank you to Ellen Storch for making the Christmas gifts display boards.
- Thank you to everyone who served as a worship assistant in 2019! Your work makes worship happen!

Fun



Gingerbread House Competition

Our 9th annual gingerbread house competition is scheduled for Sunday December 15th 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! The following Sunday the houses will be on display. The congregation can vote for their favorite.

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.

CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



Hint: All the answers can be found in this month's gospel readings on Sundays.

November Bible Trivia Answers

1. Where did Jesus go at night during Holy Week?
Answer: The Mount of Olives (Luke 21:37)
2. Give one of the excuses the guests originally invited give for not attending in the Parable of the Great Banquet. Possible answers: bought land, bought oxen, got married (Luke 14:18-20)
3. In the Parable of the Lost Coin how many coins did the woman have originally? Answer 10 (Luke 15:8)
4. What animals does the prodigal son end up feeding?
Answer: Pigs (Luke 15:15)

December Bible Trivia Questions

1. Matthew gives Jesus' ancestry. To which man does Matthew trace Jesus back to?
2. Joseph decides to break his engagement to Mary. What changes his mind?
3. In what village was Jesus born?
4. To where do Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee after his birth?

DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>Advent 1</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	2 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	3 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	4 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 4-8 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	5 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	6 <u>Nicholas, Bishop of Myra</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	7
8 <u>Advent 2</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion Standard Time Begins	9 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Property Committee 7:00 Community Chorus	11 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 4-8 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	12 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	13 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga Afternoon & evening – Food Cupboard Distribution Prep. 3-8 Cello Lessons 5:00-10:00 Girl Scouts	14 9:00-12:00 Christmas Basket Distribution 7:00 Celtic Christmas Concert
15 <u>Advent 3</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 12:00 Gingerbread House Competition	16 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	17 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	18 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 4-8 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	19 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	20 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	21 Girl Scouts
22 <u>Advent 4</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Sunday School Christmas Program	23 7:00-5:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	24 <u>Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve</u> 7:00 Candlelight Communion 11:00 Candlelight Communion	25 <u>Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas</u>	26 <u>St. Stephen, Martyr</u> 7:00-5:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 1:00 Women's Bible Study	27 <u>St. John, Apostle</u> 7:00-5:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 9:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lesson	28 <u>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</u>
29 <u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	30 7:00-5:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 9:00 Holy Yoga	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u>				



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

888 County Rd. 9

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The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

December Newsletter

December 14 – Food Basket Distribution

Celtic Christmas Concert

December 15 – Gingerbread House Competition

December 24 – 7 & 11 Candlelight Communion