

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – February 2016

## Growth

### Pastor's Paragraphs

My daughter Emma recently had an assignment for a class where she was to read articles from two philosophers. One philosopher argued that humans are by nature good. The other argued that people are by nature bad. Emma was then to write her own paper about which of the two philosophers she thought made a better argument.

While philosophers have debated for ages over whether humans are good or bad, our faith response is that people are by nature bad. Or perhaps more precisely, people are by nature turned away from God. Instead of seeking wholeness of life in God people look elsewhere; usually substituting power, money, comforts, sex or other things for God. Their misguided quest for fulfillment then leads to all sorts of evils. Of course this does not mean that all people of faith are automatically good, and all atheists are automatically bad. The world does not work

in such cut and dry categories. However, a person whose life is truly turned toward God will be driven by love and not dominated by fear or greed.

The season of Lent comes to us early in February. Years ago the Gospel Acclamation for Lent was, "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful. Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." (Joel 2:13) Lent is our annual time to remember that if left to our own devices we would turn away from God. It is God's own work that brings us to him in the first place. And it is God's own work that keeps us facing towards him. The season of Lent is our annual time to consciously return to God. We examine our lives and ask ourselves in what ways have we strayed? In what ways have we sought fulfillment in places other than our God's promises? In what ways are we trying to find meaning in life that is not God?

When we take the disciplines of Lent seriously we find ourselves truly ready to celebrate what comes at the end of Lent – the celebration of the resurrection! Then resurrection is not just a story from the past and a vague hope for the future. It becomes the certainty we build our lives upon. Only a person fully oriented towards God can appreciate the full impact of God's goodness. May your Lenten journey bring you to such a place.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon



### Ash Wednesday Worship

February 10 – 7:00pm

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

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# Worship

## February Worship Assistants

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Greeters & Ushers	Mike & Bettina Kalish	Tom & Lisa Kurilovitch	Don & Sally Mansfield	Sara & Laura DuMuzio
Lector	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Linn Griffio (10:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30) Deb Gregory (10:30)	Susie Maynard (8:30) Phyllis Henderson (10:30)	Susie Maynard (8:30) Linda Flood (10:30)
Acolyte	Hannah Brownlee	Nolan Field	Emi Perdan	Marlene Stimmel
Altar Care	Helen Crown		Helen Crown	
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann & Linda Flood		Paul & Babette Huber	
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle	Beth Perdan	Lynne Minkel	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	Bruce Boncke & Art Fields	Ethan & Lynne Minkel
Coffee Hour				

## Sanctuary Seating

During Lent the sanctuary seats will be set up in a more traditional arrangement with everyone facing the front. This is because Lent is a penitential time and our focus goes to our broken relationship with God and our need for God's forgiveness. For Easter the seats will go to a U shape arrangement. This gives focus to baptism and the paschal candle which burns every Sunday in Easter.

## Lenten Worship

For Lent we are adding mid-week worship services on Wednesdays. They start at 6:00 with a soup and bread supper, then a half-hour worship service starts at 6:30. This year our services will focus on faith issues people often misunderstand. The schedule is:

2/17 What happens after death?

2/24 What guides your life? Is it faith or culture?

3/2 Grace and freewill

3/9 Salvation for nonbelievers?

3/16 The problem of pain

These sermons will also be posted on the website.

## Give Up Lint for Lent

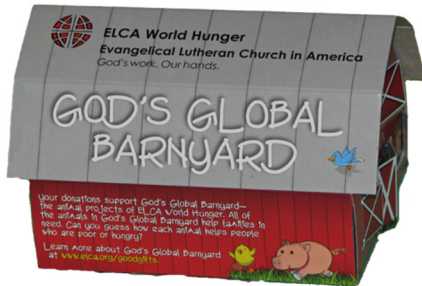
This bizarre collection is again part of our Lenten journey. If you have trouble giving something up for Lent, this will be your easiest discipline ever! There is a collection box in the Gathering Area for you to put your **dryer lint, used dryer sheets, old crayons and stubs of candles**. This worthless stuff (and somewhat gross) will be melted together and burnt on the fire at the sunrise service on Easter. This Lent give up your most worthless stuff so that God can turn it into heat and light!

## Holy Yoga Returns

Holy Yoga is again being offered at our church on Monday mornings at 10:00. Holy Yoga combines the physical movements and disciplines of yoga with a Christian worship experience. Jennifer Edwards, one of the instructors from the last time we had this, is again leading the experience. There is no cost to visit a session and try it out. Normal costs are \$10 per session or \$8 if you commit to a whole series. Talk to Pastor Jon for more information.

# Service

## Community Outreach Committee

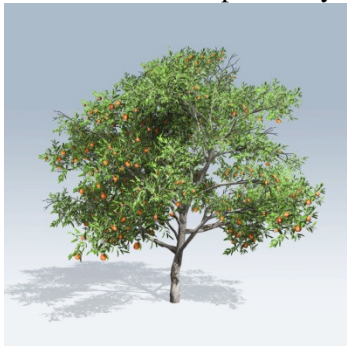


### World Hunger Barns

Last year we gave everyone a piggy bank to raise money for the ELCA Good Gifts program. Money raised was used to buy pigs for poor families across the world. They raise and breed the pigs, giving them a start at being self-sufficient.

We could do pigs again, but we thought we'd go for some variety. Goats are even more versatile than pigs. Goats can thrive in the harshest conditions, able to eat grass, brush, garbage and just about anything! In return they give milk, offspring, and meat. Goats are among the most preferred animals a family can receive. So this year we'll raise money for goats!

A goat costs about \$50 so we're asking each family in the church to take a collection box and put in \$25, or half the money for a goat. Sorry, there aren't cute "goaty banks" similar to last year's piggy banks, but our banks are barn shaped this year!



### Church Orchard

We'll be planting 20 fruit trees on the church property to grow fruit for the food cupboard. They will cost \$30 each. It will be four to five years before they grow large enough to bear fruit, and no one is blind to the amount of work productive trees required. Pruning and harvesting probably won't be a problem. We can do that as congregation-wide events. However, routine spraying will require some ongoing commitment. We have some

ideas but ultimately we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. Several families have already sponsored trees. Talk to Pastor Jon if you're interested or if you'd like more information.



### Souper Bowl Sunday

We'll again have a Soup Pot Offering on Super Bowl Sunday that will go to World Hunger.

### Thank You

- Thank you everyone who helped to put up and take down the Christmas decorations.
- Thank you to the youth of the congregation for the annual sub sale and to Ethan Minkel for organizing it.
- Thank you to Jill Ehrlinger, Paul Huber and Tom Kurilovitch for their service on church council.
- Thank you to all the committees for creating their annual reports.
- Thank you to Jill Ehrlinger for her work as church treasurer these last several years.

### Thank You from the Victor School District

Thank you so much for your assistance with our *Holiday Giving Tree* this year. Because of your efforts, we were able to assist ninety families in our community. Each family was provided with a toy and clothing item for each child in their family. We were amazed and humbled by the generosity, kindness, and caring shown to those in need.

### Thank You from the Canandaigua School District

Thank you for adopting some of our families this past holiday season. Your generosity and kindness to our neediest families is greatly appreciated.

### Thank You from the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard

Thank you for the donation of over 700 pounds of potatoes received throughout the fall of 2015 from the church's garden project. We truly appreciate your support. In these difficult economic times our needs continue. As we head into the cold winter months our statistics for November shows 577 households including 558 children, 240 senior citizens, and 825 adults receiving assistance from the cupboard. Thanks to your support, these families will have nutritious food to help sustain them during a challenging time in their lives.

## Service (Cont.)



### RIT Campus Ministry Meals and Worship

The Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at the Rochester Institute of Technology worships on Sunday evenings. Their worship services are usually followed by a meal prepared by one of the local Lutheran or Episcopal churches. We have the opportunity of participating in this fun way to share in our food and participate in the faith of RIT students. They are looking to fill Sundays in March and April right now. Thank you to those of you who expressed interest in this. We'll try to fill in one of those days. Talk to Pastor Jon or get in touch with the Rev. Craig Swanson, the chaplain at RIT to learn more.



### REACH Home Meals in the Works

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in helping provide a meal or meals for the new homeless shelter opened by the Rochester Emergency Action Committee for the Homeless. We're in touch with Bridget Carey, their contact person for meals in order to learn more about this. They're also looking for people to help staff the house. You are welcome to volunteer, but as a congregation we'll start with meals.

### 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 lives in poor health.  
The family and friends of Kasey DeMarree, 4 year old relative of Jen White, as they mourn her death.  
Janet Castillo, sister of Phyllis Henderson, who is having chest pains and is awaiting treatment.  
Jeanette Hare who is recovering from pneumonia.  
Grace Garvey, mother of Nancy Pape and Adele Garvey, who is recovering from pneumonia and other health complications.  
Pam Adams, sister-in-law of Linda Flood, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is awaiting treatment.  
Bruce Stevenson who recently had his thyroid removed due to cancer.



### The Great Fondue!

If you missed it last year, you don't want to miss it this year! Our second "Great Fondue" four-course fondue experience is planned for March 5th! It is an event to raise money for the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard. You'll start off with the cheese course, dipping bread and vegetables into a rich warm cheese sauce. Then cleanse your palate with a fresh salad. The main course will be a variety of meats and vegetables cut into bite-size portions that you'll cook to your preference in hot broth. Finish your meal with the s'mores bar. Our "chef," Jim Spawton, will be using his skills to delight your taste buds.

There will be two sittings: 5pm and 7pm. Tickets will be available in the Gathering Area for the next few weeks. Cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to buy tickets. For every five tickets sold you get one free.



# Fun

## February Birthdays

1	Justin Myers
3	Aaron Swigart
4	Tricia Kolczynski
5	Diane Boncke
6	Karen Underwood
7	Mark Bair, Nicholas Busby
13	Samuel Ehrlinger, Conrad Bremer
15	Marjorie Henderson
23	Sally Testa
24	Geoff Bright
27	Laura DeMuzio



## Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Fat Tuesday is February 9<sup>th</sup> this year. On this day Christians traditionally celebrated by consuming all the fat in their pantries in preparation for the somber and penitential season of Lent.

Our annual pancake supper starts at 6:00 with all the pancakes, sausage and fancy toppings you can eat! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area so we know how many are coming.

## Lenten Breakfasts on Sundays

During Lent we'll have a breakfast of eggs and a pastry right after the 8:30 service. Enjoy a Sunday meal with your brothers and sisters in Christ! There's no need to sign up.



## January Bible Trivia Answers

1. Who criticized the disciples for plucking grain on the Sabbath? Answer: The Pharisees (Matthew 12:2)

2. Why does Jesus give the disciples the Lord's Prayer? Answer: They asked how to pray. (Luke 11:1)
3. What is James talking about when it makes comparisons between this body part and a forest fire, a ship's rudder, and the bit in a horse's mouth? Answer: the tongue (James 3:1-6)
4. What is the shortest book of the Old Testament? Answer: Obadiah

## February Bible Trivia Questions – Cave Dwellers

1. Who lived in a cave with his daughters after Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed?
2. What friend of Jesus was buried in a cave?
3. What prophet, fleeing from Jezebel, hid in a cave?
4. What hero hid in caves to avoid the wrath of King Saul?

# Nuts and Bolts

## Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday January 24 after the 10:30 service. Here were the actions taken:

- Tom Kurilovitch, Beth Schroeder and Cindy Swigart were elected to serve on council.
- The 2016 budget as printed in the annual report passed without amendment.
- An expenditure of up to \$12,000 from the capital fund was approved for the purchase of a new commercial lawn mower.
- An expenditure of up to \$15,000 from the capital fund for renovations to the fellowship hall was tabled for the church council and property committee to more fully develop a renovation plan.

## Newsletter Changes

This issue is the final issue of the newsletter that will be distributed in paper form by bulk mailing. In the future we'll be distributing it electronically by email. Paper copies will still be available at church. For those who wish we'll put copies in your mailboxes. Also, for those who are far away and who would still like to have the newsletter mailed to them, please contact the church office and let us know. We'll still mail out to everyone who wants to receive it. This change will significantly lower our postage and printing costs.

## 2016 Church Directory

A new church directory will soon be printed. Your contact information is laid out on a table in the Gathering area. Please review it and make any changes.

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga  3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> <u>Presentation of Our Lord</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>3</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast  4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>4</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study  7:00 Worship and Music Committee 7:00 Girl Scouts	<b>5</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  1:00 Girl Scouts – American Girl Tea Party 3-8 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	<b>6</b> 8-5 Arts and Crafts Show
<b>7</b> <u>Transfiguration of Our Lord</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Sunday School leads Worship	<b>8</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga  3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 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	<b>10</b> <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:00 Holy Communion 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>11</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study	<b>12</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:00-8:00 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <u>1st Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship  Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 10:00 Holy Yoga	<b>16</b> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>17</b> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 8:00 Men's Breakfast  6:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>18</b> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 12:00 Bible Study  7:00 Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs	<b>20</b> 4:00-9:00 Retrouvaille
<b>21</b> <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>22</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga  3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Wght Wtchrs 7:00 Property Comm 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>24</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast  6:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>25</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study	<b>26</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:00-8:00 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <u>3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>29</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga  3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts					