

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – February 2020

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

As I'm writing this we're in the midst of the impeachment trial for our nation's president. While I certainly have my opinions, I've always tried to be able to see the "other side" of arguments. However, that seems to be getting tougher and tougher – at least in the realm of government. I used to feel I could gain perspective by truly listening to those who disagree with me. While I may not swing to their point of view, I would come away with a greater appreciation for the complexity of the problem. Not so much anymore though. Perhaps I'm getting impatient, or perhaps the rhetoric is becoming more extreme. My mind quickly jumps to: "How could you possibly be associated with that point of view?!" It is just much harder to keep an open mind.

Lea Schweitz, Professor and Director of the Zygon Center for Religion and Science at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, is known to call some problems, "wicked problems." By that label she does not mean they are particularly heinous. Rather, she is referring to problems that cannot be simply solved with legislation and then forgotten. These are problems that require a solution today, then an evaluation of how the solution worked, then the solution revised over and over again in the future. These are long term problems that take ongoing work and open mindedness.

I believe many issues in our nation fall into this category of problems. That goes for health care, agriculture, immigration, race relationships, trade policies, international politics, and on and on goes the list.

The world's problems have no easy answers. No political party can pass a law, claim victory, and then walk into the sunset forever triumphant. The challenge for our elected officials (and us as citizens) is to stay engaged in the problems, keep listening, have some humility, and keep trying. We're smart. We're strong. We can do this!

In Romans 13:1 St. Paul writes, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God." He goes on to say that the government is God's authority on earth to keep evil in check. In 13:4 Paul says the government is God's servant for *our* good. In a sense Paul sees the government creating a space for the work of Christians to be accomplished and the gospel to spread.

In Paul's day the small churches had no influence over the powerful Roman government at any level. It certainly wasn't a democracy! They just had to accept and trust. Our situation is quite different. We have the right to vote and our nation wields global influence. If the government is to truly be God's authority on earth then we need to stay engaged. We cannot disconnect. And we cannot close our ears to messages we do not want to hear. I have struggled for years with both of our major political parties. Quite frankly I can't stand either one of them. While I like any number of our local leaders from both parties, at a national level I find them to be out of touch, highly corrupt, and not truly interested in rolling up their sleeves and getting the dirty work done. Nevertheless, both have valuable perspectives.

If you, like me, are becoming jaded to the whole situation, I invite you to keep trying. Keep thinking critically. Keep listening. The "wicked problems" will never improve as long as the answers are more aimed at political gain than real good. We have both the privilege and the responsibility to be a part of government. We fail when we give in to wanting simple solutions.

Regardless of what our government does, our role as Christians does not change. Our role is to spread the good news of God's love throughout the world. We do that through the way we speak. We do that through the way we listen. We do that in the way we engage in politics. And we do that in the way we interact with others each and every day. May you have the insight, the strength, and the courage to face the struggles ahead. Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Worship

February Worship Assistants

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Greeters & Ushers	Lisa and Tom Kurilovitch	Mike and Bettina Kalish	Kim and Gary Boisseau	Mike and Cassie Ross
Lector	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30)	Mary Zuege (8:30)	Ann King (8:30)	Janet Reese (8:30)
Acolyte	Rudy Stroup	Jacob Kurilovitch	Jonathan Buch	Abbie Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Beth Perdan		Beth Perdan	
Communion Assistants	Tim and Liz Brown		Linda Flood and Phyllis Henderson	
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Judy VanDeVelde	Beth Perdan
Counters	Nancy and Ivan Shuler	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman	Linda and John Thompson	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour				



February Gospel Readings

February 2 – Matthew 13:1-53
 February 9 – Matthew 13:54–14:36
 February 16 – Matthew 15 –16:12
 February 23 (Transfiguration) – Matthew 16:13-17:13



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 26 – 7:00pm
 Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes



Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is becoming an annual tradition in our congregation's 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!

Nuts and Bolts



2020 Annual Meeting

The 2020 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 26th after the 10:30 worship service. There will be the usual items on the agenda: review of reports, elections for church council, and the church budget. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Jon before the meeting.

Church Council Positions

We will have four open Council positions to elect at our upcoming annual meeting. Council meets once a month (except no meeting in July) from 7:00-9:00 PM traditionally on the second Monday of the month, but that date can be changed to suit the schedules of the council members. If you are interested in serving on this team, please see Tim Brown or Pastor Jon.

Financial Update

End of Year 2019	
YTD Income	\$214,123.27
YTD Expenses	\$213,259.43
Difference	863.84

2020 Membership Directory

We will print a new membership directory in February of 2020. The current contact information we have for you will be put out on tables in the Gathering Area. Please review the information we have for you and make any updates or corrections.

Service

Family Promise

Family Promise of Ontario County is pleased to introduce two new staff members. Many of you are already familiar with Lauren Lamb. She has taken the position of Congregation and Community Liaison. Jay Garrett-Larsen has also joined our staff as our Case Manager. We are really excited about having these folks with us – stop in and say hi next time you are in the area!

Family Promise - Next Host Week

Our next host week is February 2 to 9. There are still lots of spots to fill. If you haven't signed up to help please do so. If you need training be in touch with Beth Perdan for upcoming training sessions. Thanks for your support and commitment.

3rd Annual Comfort Food Cook-Off

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 3-5pm

Location and registration information coming soon! Start planning those recipes and revving up your taste buds— three simultaneous locations:

Willowbrook Christian Church of Victor,
Methodist Church of Clifton Springs and
Presbyterian Church of Geneva!

email Brenda Calabria at FPOCweb@fpocny.org for more information on becoming a cook or volunteering to bake goods.



Lenten Coin Banks

ELCA Good Gifts - Goat and Chicks

With this gift a family gains access to an ongoing supply of eggs from their chickens and protein-packed milk from their goat. Even better, extra eggs and dairy products can be sold at the market for a steady income.

The combination costs \$60. We'd like to collect enough to send 6 of these. Look for this year's coin banks to appear in the Gathering Area late in February.



The Souper Bowl started in 1990 and that year 22 churches raised \$5,700.00 to help their local charities. In 2019 more than 5,000 groups collected over \$9.6 million worth of food and contributions. 100% of the money collected is given to the charity of your choice. We have chosen to give our donations to WORLD HUNGER. Last year we collected \$251.05.

National Advocates are former President & Mrs. Jimmy Carter (and were former President & Mrs. George H. W. Bush).

The soup pot will out on Feb. 2nd for contributions this year....Thanks so much!

Service (Cont.)



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- The family and friends of Amy Plouffe as they mourn her death.
- 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.
- Knute Halvorson, who is living in Aria Nursing Home in Penfield.
- Alice Ross, mother of Mike Ross as she recovers from sepsis and pneumonia.
- Howard Wilson, brother of Judy VanDeVelde who has an intestinal blockage and will probably have surgery.



From the Victor Central School

For the last six years, we have been very fortunate work with you in providing for families that participate in our Holiday Giving Tree Program. We are truly grateful for the selfless and generous community that supports this effort each year.

Thank you for your unwavering support and giving hearts to this program. There is no greater gift than providing for a wish made by a child. We hope your families find joy in knowing that many of those were granted again this year. This year a total of 98 families participated which means 230 children received 460+ gifts.

As we close another year of Holiday Giving, we are wishing you and your families peace, health, and happiness in the New Year!
Respectfully yours, and with sincere gratitude,
Liz McLean & Jody Drew.

- Thank you to the Stevensons for taking down the Christmas decorations.
- Thank you to everyone who plowed snow in December.
- Thank you to everyone who provided cookies and brownies for Amy Plouffe's funeral.

- Thank you to Jen White for organizing the children's Sunday school program and to all the teachers who helped.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the gingerbread house competition.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas food basket distribution.
- Thank you to our church council members who are completing their terms: Tim Brown, Gary Wood, Cassie Ross, and Pete Gregory.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton for doing additional work in preparing the organ for the rededication service.

Fun



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

January Bible Trivia Questions

1. In what wilderness does John the Baptist work? Answer: Judea (Matthew 3:1)
2. What river is Jesus' baptized in? Answer: Jordan (Matthew 3:13)
3. Who is the brother of the apostle Andrew? Answer: Peter (4:18)
4. How many apostles does Jesus choose? Answer: 12 (Matthew 10:1)

February Bible Trivia Questions

1. Why did Herod arrest John the Baptist?
2. At the transfiguration what does the voice from the cloud say?
3. Where does Jesus get the coin he needs to pay the temple tax?
4. What was the original name of the disciple Jesus renames Peter?

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Sunday School Children Lead Worship, Communion Family Promise Week	3 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts Family Promise Week	4 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus Family Promise Week	5 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous Family Promise Week	6 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study Family Promise Week	7 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons Family Promise Week	8 Family Promise Week
9 <u>5th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	10 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	11 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	12 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 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
16 <u>6th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	17 <u>President's Day</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 9:00 Holy Yoga	18 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 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 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	21 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	22
23 <u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	24 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 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	26 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Holy Communion 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	27 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Church of Christ	28 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	29



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

Victor, NY 14564

The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

February Newsletter

26 – Ash Wednesday