

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – January 2019

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

Epiphany is a major church holiday. However, it is often ignored unless its date - January 6 – falls on a Sunday. This year it does! While Epiphany is a Christian holiday, some aspects of it trace to long before Christianity existed. Egyptian records all the way back to 1996 B.C. show they celebrated a night festival on January 5-6 as the birth of the god Aenon (Osiris) from Kore the virgin. Early Christian celebrations of Epiphany show many parallels to these Egyptian practices.

For us Epiphany specifically marks the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. This is a much bigger deal than just some foreigners showing up to give baby gifts! The Wise Men traveled from far-away lands to see Jesus. The word epiphany means, “a sudden striking insight, often the revelation of a god”. The Wise Men’s visit has come to mark the revealing of Jesus’ birth to the whole world. The three gifts have meanings. Gold is a gift fit for a king. Frankincense is an incense or perfume used in religious rituals. It is a gift fit for a high priest. Myrrh is a strange and unnerving gift. In Jesus’ time it was used as a burial spice – an ominous thing to give the parents of a newborn.

The Bible tells us nothing about the Wise Men other than they came from the East. Church traditions added many things about them, most notably that there were three of them. By the 8th Century Christians had given them names: Gaspar (or Caspar), Melchior, and Balthasar. Much of the way we celebrate Epiphany today comes from the 8th Century.

I encourage you to do three of those ancient Epiphany celebrations in your home after you arrive home from worship on January 6. We’ll do a couple of these in worship too. First, use chalk to write the mark of the Wise Men on your front door (or the frame around it). That mark is: 20 + C + M + B + 19. The numbers are for the year – 2019. The plus signs are crosses. The letters are the initials of the Wise Men. They are also the first letters of the words of an ancient house blessing:

“Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” or in English, “May Christ bless this house.” The mark of the Wise Men is asking for Christ’s blessing on your home in the year 2019.

The second thing is to create a king cake. Many people associate this with Mardi Gras but it is actually an Epiphany thing. You can find lots of recipes online for king cakes but a simple white cake is perfectly fine. Hide a tiny plastic baby figurine in the cake batter. It is a sign of good luck to the person who gets the piece with the baby. If you’re like me, you’ll grab any excuse to eat cake!

Finally, continue the house blessing beyond the front door. I don’t have room in this article to write it all out, but our church has blessings for every room of the house – including bathrooms and laundry closets! If you’re interested let me know and I’ll print off a copy or email it to you. God’s blessings to you and your homes as we celebrate Epiphany on January 6!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 20th 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. There will also be the second vote on revisions to the constitution. The first vote passed unanimously last year. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Jon before the meeting.

Worship

January Worship Assistants

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Greeters & Ushers	Dick & Phyllis Henderson	Tom & Carol Urbanic	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	John & Linda Thompson
Lector	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30)	Mary Zuege (8:30)	Ann King (8:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30)
Acolyte	Morgan Sackett	Mary Erhlinger	Molly Perdan	Katya Kurilovitch
Altar Care	Liz Brown		Liz Brown	
Communion Assistants	Paul & Babette Huber		Tim & Liz Brown	
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel	Laura Stroup	Kristi Bullwinkle	Beth Perdan
Counters	Tom Kurilovitch & Helen Crown	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	Tim Brown & Bill Hagerman	John & Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Burdie Gillern		Beth Perdan in honor of Cindy Swigart	

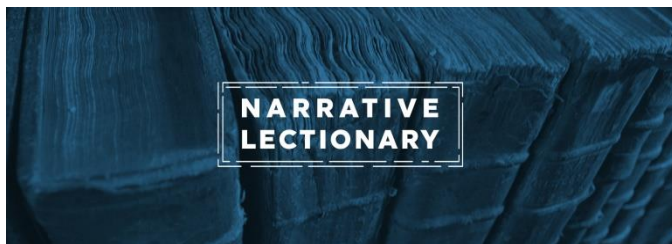
Church Council Positions

We will have four open Council positions to elect at our upcoming annual meeting. We have one member who is term limited, two that are moving out of state, and one who has one term left. The person with one term left has agreed to run again, so that leaves us with three more candidates to find. Council meets once a month (except no meeting in July) from 7:00-9:00 PM on what will be the third week of the month. We are still determining if the meeting will be Monday or Tuesday of that week. If you are interested in serving on this team, please see Tim Brown or Pastor Jon.

Submitted by Tim Brown

Annual Meeting Agenda

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



January Worship Texts

January 6 (Epiphany) – Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 – Luke 2:41-52

January 20 – Luke 3:1-20

January 27 – Luke 3:21 – 4:13

Nuts and Bolts

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: sjlvictor@gmail.com

🚩 Nuts and Bolts (Cont.) 🚩

Financial Update

As of November 30
YTD Income \$192,313.62
YTD Expenses \$191,746.65
Difference \$566.97

Church Council Notes from 12/17

- Agreed to join new Town of Victor web site providing link to our church web site
- Decided to sell old organ
- Considered the selection of the new carpet in the Fellowship Hall
- Discussed Eagle Scout Project by Aidan Kolczynski to build a small shed for storing the snow blower and other supplies
- Reviewed Music Director contract and the position's responsibilities, and took action to align
- Discussed candidates for the four open Council positions for the upcoming annual meeting
- Decided to move our meetings for 2019 to the third week of the month to accommodate member conflicts
- Updated the proposed 2019 budget and took actions on a few line items
- Set annual meeting date as 1/20/2019 and determined a preliminary agenda

Submitted by Tim Brown

🚩 Service 🚩

Community Outreach Committee

Thanks so much to everyone that brought in Christmas gifts for the area families in need.

Thanks also for all the gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats; many of which were handmade!

“Souper Bowl Sunday” is February 3rd. Any donations we receive go to World Hunger. Last year's total was \$208.00



-Thank you to everyone Rob Stroup and Jen White for organizing the gingerbread house competition and for providing the supplies. Thank you also to everyone who participated.

-Thank you to Jim Spawton for organizing the Christmas Ceilidh concert and fundraiser for Family Promise. It raised \$750! Thank you to Carol Urbanic who organized the cookies and refreshments for the concert, and also everyone who provided cookies.

-Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. A special thank you to Connie Stevenson and Mary Zuege who spent time cleaning and organizing the decorations in advance.

-Thank you to Gary Boisseau for helping to reset the fire alarm and sprinkler systems after a pipe ruptured on November 25.

Thank you to the worship band for leading music when Heidi was on vacation on November 25.

Thank you to everyone who gave gifts for the gift collection for families in need; and also everyone who gave hats, scarves, and mittens.



-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 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 has metastatic breast cancer.

-Knute Halvorson, who recently began struggling more with severe back and leg pain.

-The family and friends of Glenice Owens, mother of Sue Howland, as they mourn her death.

-The family and friends of Richard Stevenson, father of Bruce Stevenson, as they mourn his death.



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.

The First Frost Campaign has Begun!

What would you do if you and your family had nowhere to spend tonight? Frightening thought as the frost begins and temperatures plummet.

Financial viability is an ongoing goal for us and friends of FPOC can expect a letter asking them to partner with us financially.

Contributions can be made through our website www.FamilyPromiseOntarioCounty.org or snail mail at FPOC, PO Box 416, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

FPOC 2nd Annual Comfort Food Cook Off March 2 3-5pm

Save the date! We'll have three locations again this year: Clifton Springs, Geneva and Canandaigua. More details to come!

The Coldest Path

a 5k run/walk-a-thon to raise awareness.
What if your famiy had no where to stay?

Saturday, March 2, 2019

The Coldest Path March 2 1:00

A walk/5k run in Canandaigua prior to the Comfort Food Kick off. We walk in the cold to support all those in our community who are being crushed by the struggle of homelessness. To them - and to the community that witnesses our trek - we declare together that everyone deserves a safe place to rest their heads at night.

Save the date!

Service (Cont.)

Cook-off

share your culinary power and compete against other home cooks while raising awareness for Family Promise!

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Fun



Youth Group Sub Sale

The Youth Group will be making subs for the annual meeting on January 20th, so you don't have to worry about lunch. Youth group members will be taking orders in the Gathering Area after worship in the first few Sundays of January.



Gingerbread House Competition Winner!

Congratulations to Tierney White and Morgan Sackett on their winning design and construction! They received the most votes from the congregation. Thank you to everyone who participated in the competition and everyone who voted.



December Bible Trivia Answers

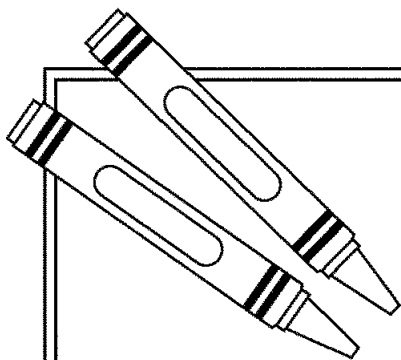
1. Which two gospels contain a genealogy for Jesus?
Answer: Matthew and Luke (Matthew 1, Luke 4)
2. What two elderly people meet Joseph and Mary when they take Jesus to the temple after his birth? Answer:
Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:21-40)
3. What angel came to Mary to tell her of Jesus' conception? Answer: Gabriel (Luke 1:26)
4. Who was born first, John the Baptist or Jesus?
Answer: John the Baptist (Luke 1:39-45)

January Bible Trivia Questions

1. How old was Jesus when his parents accidentally left him behind in the temple?
2. John the Baptist said he was unworthy to untie what of the coming Messiah?
3. What high place did the devil take Jesus and tempt him to throw himself down?
4. What does the devil tempt Jesus to turn into a loaf of bread?

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <u>Name of Jesus</u> <u>New Year's Day</u>	2 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	3 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 1:00 Women's Bible Study	4 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	5
		(Family Promise)	(Family Promise)	(Family Promise)	(Family Promise)	(Family Promise)
6 <u>Epiphany</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion (Family Promise, morning only)	7 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	9 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	10 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	11 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	12
13 <u>1st Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	14 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	15 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	16 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	17 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	18 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	19
20 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 12:00 Annual Meeting	21 <u>King Jr.</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs	22 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	23 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	24 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	25 <u>Conversion of St. Paul</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3-8 Cello Lessons	26 9:00-12:00 Vipassina Meditation
27 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	28 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 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	30 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	31 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study		

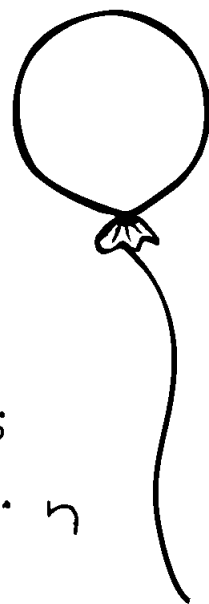
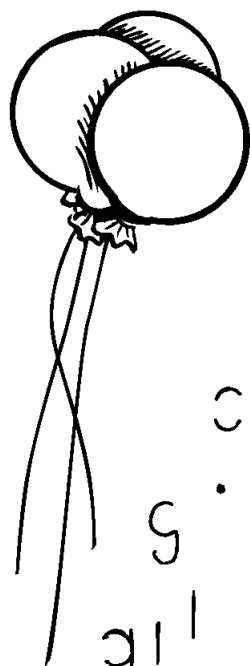


Just for KIDS

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The letters of the words in the verse have been started for you. Add a straight line to each to complete the letters.

Read the words.



Be joyful
always;
praise
continually;
give thanks in
all circumstances,
for this is
God's will for you
in Christ Jesus.



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

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Address Service Requested

January Newsletter

January 20 Annual Meeting