

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – July/August 2016

## Growth

### Pastor's Paragraphs

The world is a dangerous place. We receive a steady stream of news from around the world about wars and violence and destruction. Within our own country we have all too many shootings and too much violence. But there are plenty of dangers beyond intentional acts of violence. Turn anywhere and you'll find advertisements for personal injury attorneys. They create the feeling that society is full of people who are careless, exploitative and manipulative. They alone are trustworthy and on your side.

The world will always be a dangerous place. Many people's lives are driven by fear. They work hard to protect themselves. Political candidates of all parties know how effective it is to play on people's fears. As Christians we remember that our lives are not driven by fear. Instead we are driven by the mission of spreading the gospel. We also remember that who we are and what makes us effective is created by God and God alone. Nothing can ever take these things from us. Nothing.

In our world of fear the Bible's teachings come off sounding silly at the very least, and many people find them downright offensive. But it is important to remind ourselves of them anyway. Though many people believe that self-defense sometimes allows/requires the use of violence, Jesus forbids it. He says in Matthew 5:39, "Do not resist and evil-doer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also." Jesus goes on to also reject non-violent forms of self-defense: "And if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile." (Matthew 5:40-41)

In 1525 Martin Luther wrote "Admonition to Peace, a Reply to the Twelve Articles of the Peasants in Swabia". It is a scathing paper condemning both government

leaders and peasants over recent violence. Here's an excerpt:

"Even a child can understand that the Christian law tells us not to strive against injustice, not to grasp the sword, not to protect ourselves, not to avenge ourselves, but to give up life and property, and let whoever takes it have it. We have all we need in our Lord, who will not leave us, as he has promised (Hebrews 13:5). Suffering! Suffering! Cross! Cross! This and nothing else is the Christian law! But now you are fighting for temporal goods and will not let the coat go after the cloak, but want to recover the cloak." (*Luther's Works* Volume 46, Pg. 29).

Luther's words need a bit of explanation. Luther made a distinction between an individual's actions and government actions. He saw the government as an agent of God for the purpose of restraining evil. (Romans 13:1) Restraining evil was therefore not an individual Christian's job. Proclaiming the gospel was! Thus Luther could be supportive of governments in their use of the military and he also supported the criminal justice system. Luther opposed Christians using the civil justice system to sue for damages.

What does all this mean for us? While the Bible's teachings feel naïve, they are our God's will. Like the Bible says, we do not live by fear; for we have nothing to fear! God keeps us. Remember that always and put it in the center of your life. Whether you feel it or not, it is God who has made you capable. Let everything else flow from that. When our fears hamper our ability to do what God calls us to do our lives have gone astray. We have entered a downward spiral that will not suit us. When that happens (and it happens to everyone) God brings us back again and restores us. May you always live in the truth of what God has done and proclaim it with boldness so that others can also be truly free of fear!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

# Worship

## July Worship Assistants

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Greeters & Ushers	Phyllis & Dick Henderson	Rob & Laura Stroup	Cindy Swigart & Helen Crown	Linda & John Thompson	Gary & Kim Boisseau
Lector	Susie Maynard (8:30) Lisa Kurilovitch (10:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30) Joy Lethbridge (10:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Sally Mansfield (10:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30) Ethan Minkel (10:30)	Susie Maynard (8:30) Linda Morley (10:30)
Acolyte	Jaden White	Julia Bullwinkle	Kelsey Sackett	Ally Buch	Sarah Brownlee
Altar Care	Joy Lethbridge		Joy Lethbridge		Joy Lethbridge
Communion Assistants	Don & Sally Mansfield		Ethan & Lynne Minkel		Ivan & Nancy Shuler
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel	Kristi Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Lynne Minkel	Beth Perdan
Counters	Bruce Boncke & Art Fields	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Ethan & Alyssa Minkel	Nancy & Ivan Shuler	John & Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour					

## August Worship Assistants

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Greeters & Ushers	Diane & Bruce Boncke	Liz & Tim Brown	Gay & John Card	Mike & Cassie Ross
Lector	Kevin Maynard (8:30) Alan Morley (10:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Joe Pow III (10:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30) Nancy Shuler (10:30)	Susie Maynard Storch (8:30) Karen Spawton (10:30)
Acolyte	Sam Ehrlinger	Ben Deibler	Scott Wilmot	Sebastian Plouffe
Altar Care				
Communion Assistants				
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup	Lynne Minkel	Beth Perdan	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern	Tom Kurilovitch & Helen Crown	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Don Mansfield & Tim Brown
Coffee Hour				

# Nuts and Bolts

## June 5 Special Congregational Meeting Results

The congregation approved spending up to \$32,000 for parking lot repairs at the special congregational meeting. The work should be done at some point later this summer. Thank you to the Property Committee for all their work getting bids for this project.

## June Council Highlights

**Property Committee:** Reports a very successful Spring Clean Up Day on April 30 with lots of volunteers and much work accomplished.

Recommends to have parking lot repairs done before the upgrades to the Fellowship Hall. Recommends these renovations be pushed to 2017.

New lawn mower has been purchased and in use now. Still need volunteers to sign up for mowing.

**Fellowship Committee:** Working on a date for the Congregational Picnic as it seems that June 4th will likely have very low attendance.

**Special Congregational Meeting** was scheduled for Sunday, May 22 after the 10:30 service to present information regarding parking lot repairs. On 5/22, no quorum met, only 35 voting members present (need 40) and meeting was postponed to June 5.

## Stewardship and Finance Committee Update

	Income	Expenses	Difference
As of			
May 31	82,929.03	87,481.07	(4,552.04)

The Capital Campaign is currently at 73%, with \$66,351 pledged and \$48,707 received. Funds were used in May to purchase the new mower! The parking lot is next on the list.

# Service

## Community Outreach Committee

Maggie's Kids Summer Day Camp – will be held July 11-15 this year. St. John's has agreed to provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the campers on Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Willowbrook location.

Sign up sheets are posted on the Bulletin Board for donations of food; money will also be welcomed.

Volunteers to help serve the food and assist with activities are also needed. Please sign up. If you have questions, please contact Bettina Kalish or Burdie Gillern.

Thank you to everyone who provided food and helped with set up or clean up for Jim Nohe's memorial service. We will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief school kits from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be a collection box in the gathering area for the following items. One kit includes:

- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks or college ruled paper approximately 8 X 10.5 inches
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 5 – unsharpened #2 pencils
- 1- 30 centimeter ruler
- 1-blunt children's scissors
- 5 - black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 1 box 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 – 2 ½ inch eraser

As always, thanks so much for your help with this project.

## Congratulations High School Class of 2016!

Hanna Boisseau, Anna Christman, Sam DeMuzio and Allison Stark are all graduating from high school this year. Congratulations and God's blessings to them!



## 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 continues to recover from shoulder surgery.

Jeanette Hare whose health is unstable.

Amy Plouffe who was recently diagnosed with cancer in a couple areas of her body.

The family and friends of Jim Nohe as they mourn his gospel.

Jill Flood as she recovers from knee surgery.

Matt Bair who is recovering from a hip replacement.

Ellen Curtis who is recovering from a hip replacement.

Paul Huber who is recovering from surgery and is doing some follow up treatments.

Ted Bair who is recovering from spinal surgery.

Katie Rodgers, friend of the Stevensons, who is a young mother and has various cancers growing in her body.

## Service (Cont.)



-Thank you to everyone who helped provide food and with set up at Jim Nohe's memorial service.  
 -Thank you to everyone who helped plant potatoes, corn and pumpkins in the garden project.  
 -Thank you to John Thompson and John CiPollina for painting the bridge.  
 -Thankyou to all the Sunday school and confirmation teachers for their work in the 2015-16 school year.  
 -Thank you to Bettina Kalish for always creating the schedule for counters.  
 -Thank you to Karen Spawton for playing piano when Heidi was on vacation.  
 -Thank you to Tricia Kolczynski and Rob Stroup for leading worship when Pastor Jon was on vacation.  
 -Thank you to Linda Flood and Pete Gregory for being our voting representatives at synod assembly.  
 -Thank you to Ethan Minkel for being our voting representative at the spring conference assembly.  
 -Thank you to Jen White for creating the photo slide show of Sunday school.  
 Thank you to the worship band for the hymn sing.  
 Thank you to Tom Kurilovitch for leading the special congregational meeting on June 5.  
 Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the lawn in June.

16 Jill Flood, Brian Hall  
 18 Alice Storch  
 19 Fred Trost  
 20 Kim Boisseau  
 21 Tom Pike, Sam C. DeMuzio  
 23 Scott Bair, Jr., Carl Phelps  
 24 Paul Huber  
 25 Kayla Ratka, Anne Stromstad  
 26 Meghan Reissig, Joe Pow II  
 28 Patricia Conklin  
 29 Kathy Nohe  
 30 Ken Ratka  
 29 Michele Castle, Brent Weicht

## August Birthdays

1 Mark Peston  
 2 Melody Keefe, Scott Ehrlinger  
 3 Laura Stroup  
 6 Amy Fields, Jason Wagner  
 10 Laura Boncke Downey  
 11 Sarah Lasky  
 12 Adele Garvey  
 13 Kelsey Sackett  
 14 Patti Patric, Bud Menz  
 15 Barb Kerr, Steven Bassett, Tom Kurilovitch  
 17 Andy Matthews, Jeremy Brown  
 18 Sue Kaufmann  
 20 Marlys Braunllich  
 22 Gordon Holbig, Robert Henderson  
 27 Denise Krug, Mark Bassett  
 28 Paul Green  
 29 Shari Ratka  
 31 Sue Howland, David Wetter

## Fun

### Parish Picnic/Block Party?

The Fellowship Committee is rethinking the parish picnic/block party this year because we couldn't come up with a good date in the summertime. At this point a fall festival is being envisioned for a weekend in late September. More information will follow.

### July Birthdays

3 Jeff Deichman  
 4 Kent Underwood, Sarah Preston  
 5 Floyd Yahn  
 6 Emi Perdan  
 7 Dick Larsen, Scott Wilmot, Robert Stroup  
 9 Marilyn Bair  
 10 Sheri Landahl  
 11 Ellen Storch, Gail Holbig  
 13 Rob Chambers, Suellen Bremer  
 15 Dan Albert



### June Bible Trivia Questions – Wild Animals

1. What was Jacob's twin brother, Esau, good at?  
 Answer: Hunting (Genesis 25:27)  
 2. What was Isaac's favorite food? Answer: Wild game (Genesis 27:3-4)  
 3. Whose coat was dipped in the blood of a wild goat and then given to his father? Answer: Joseph (Genesis 37:31-34)  
 4. What did Samson tie to the tails of 300 foxes?  
 Answer: Lighted torches (Judges 15:3-5)

### July/August Trivia Questions – Creepy Crawlies

1. What creatures filled the Egyptians' beds when Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt?  
 2. Why didn't God send the plague of flies into Goshen?  
 3. What did Samson find in the carcass of a lion?  
 4. What food did John the Baptist eat?

# July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  3-8 Cello Lessons	2
3 <u>7th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	4 <u>Thomas, Apostle</u>  Independence Day	5  1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	6  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous  4-8 Piano Lessons	7  7:00 Worship & Music Committee	8  3-8 Cello Lessons	9
10 <u>8th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	11  10:00 Holy Yoga	12  1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers	13  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	14	15  3-8 Cello Lessons	16
17 <u>9th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	18  10:00 Holy Yoga	19  1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers	20  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	21	22 <u>Mary Magdalene, Apostle</u>	23
24 <u>10th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	25  10:00 Holy Yoga	26  1:00 Women's Bible Study  5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Property Committee	27  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	28	29	30
31 <u>11th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Holy Communion						

# August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 10:00 Holy Yoga	<b>2</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>3</b> 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 4-8 Piano Lessons	<b>4</b> 7:00 Worship & Music Committee	<b>5</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <u>12th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Worship	<b>8</b> 10:00 Holy Yoga 7:00 Church Council	<b>9</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>10</b> 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 4-8 Piano Lessons	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <u>13th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	<b>15</b> <u>Mary, Mother of our Lord</u> 10:00 Holy Yoga	<b>16</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>17</b> 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <u>14th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 Holy Yoga	<b>23</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>24</b> <u>Bartholomew, Apostle</u> 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <u>15th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	<b>29</b> <u>The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist</u> 10:00 Holy Yoga	<b>30</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Property Committee	<b>31</b> 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous			