

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – July/August 2019

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

Thank you to all of you for putting together the celebration for me being the pastor at St. John's for 20 years! The time certainly has flown by! The crystal sculpture you gave is a nice remembrance of what we have accomplished, and your generous cash gift is very much appreciated. I used part of it to buy a new laptop computer, which I am using to write this. I decided to splurge and get a computer with far more capacity than I need. But it is a treat to do ordinary work on a computer that is so fast!

I also want to say thank you for the twenty years of journeying we have had together as a congregation. Certainly not every moment has been pleasant, but it has been a fulfilling and rewarding time. We have accomplished some big things, like building a sanctuary and bell tower! We have also experienced the deaths of some long-time beloved members. Many old traditions have ended and many new things have come into place. All of that keeps life and ministry interesting.

Perhaps the biggest question is what will things be like twenty years from now? I hate to always be the bearer of bad news, but we all know that religions in America are declining steeply; not just Christianity. The sad truth is that as people become more affluent they no longer see a need for faith. They fool themselves into thinking they don't need God.

The statisticians at the central offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) recently released trend reports showing a steep decline for the ELCA. If those trends continue there will no longer be an ELCA in twenty years! Concurring is the April 27, 2017 issue of the Washington Post predicting the extinction of mainline protestant churches by the year 2040.

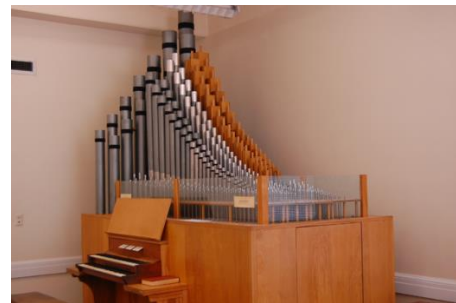
That is certainly something to be concerned about, but I do not worry overly much. The church is God's, not ours. God will get done what God wants to get done regardless. However, we still have the privilege of being God's children. We are the people called by God to

continue to work for God's purposes. Whether trends and spreadsheets show growth or decline, we continue work for God's kingdom. We'll do that for the next twenty years, and unless God calls creation to its close, for many years beyond!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Congratulations High School Graduates!

Congratulations to Josh Albert, Conrad Bremer, and Laura DeMuzio on their high school graduations. Check out the display board in the Gathering Area to see what their futures have in store.



Organ Rededication August 18, 10:30 (Tentatively)

Last year we were given the pipe organ that used to be in Trinity Lutheran Church, East Rochester. Many of you have patiently watched as that organ has been slowly installed in our sanctuary. While there is still work to do, the end is in sight! We're aiming to rededicate the organ at the 10:30 service on August 18. "Aiming to" because a few things are still unknown: There are a couple parts we have discovered should be replaced. We also want to schedule a tuning for it. And, we are working with Caroline Robinson, organist at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pittsford, to play for the dedication. St. Paul's has graciously made her available to us in exchange for our own Heidi Griffith playing at St. Paul's that Sunday. Ms. Robinson has an ambitious work and recital schedule we have to accommodate. (To learn more about her see her website: carolinerobinson.net)

Worship

July Worship Assistants

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Greeters & Ushers	Phyllis & Dick Henderson	Linda & Al Morley	Linda Flood & Burdie Gillern	Lisa & Tom Kurilovitch
Lector	Kevin Maynard (8:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30)	Ann King (8:30)
Acolyte	Joe Wyman	Olivia DeLeon	Morgan Sackett	Rudy Stroup
Altar Care			Liz Brown	
Communion Assistants			Linda Flood & Phyllis Henderson	
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde	Kristy Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Bill & Katy Stimmel
Counters	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	Tom Kurilovitch & Helen Crown	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	John & Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour		I		

August Worship Assistants

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Greeters & Ushers	Helen Crown & Sally Mansfield	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Sara DeMuzio & Tricia Kolczynski	Paul & Babette Huber
Lector	Mary Zuege (8:30)	Suzy Maynard (8:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30)	Ann King (8:30)
Acolyte	Jacob Kurilovitch	Brodie Ireland	Jonathan Buch	Abbie Bullwinkle
Altar Care			Linda Thompson	
Communion Assistants			Bruce & Connie Stevenson	
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup	Beth Perdan	Bill & Katy Stimmel	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Tim Brown & Bill Hagerman	Nancy & Ivan Shuler	Bruce Boncke & Art Fields	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour				

Worship (Cont.)



July & August Worship Texts

7/7	Luke 7:18-35
7/14	Luke 7:36-50
7/21	Luke 8:1-21
7/28	Luke 8:22-39
8/4	Luke 8:40-56
8/11	Luke 9:1-17
8/18	Luke 9:18-27
8/25	Luke 10:25-42

8:30 Worship Outdoors

The 8:30 worship attendees have been enjoying worshipping in the outdoor chapel many Sundays. Weather permitting, we'll continue that through September. Please remember that the grass is often wet!

Nuts and Bolts

Council notes from 6/17 Meeting

- Finances improved in May - summer months usually a challenge though
 - Endowment fund meeting being scheduled
 - Requested quote from new cleaning services
 - Organ renovation in progress - targeting 7/28 re-dedication
 - Approved sexual harassment policy to be added to Continuing Resolutions - reviewed materials to be posted and filed in Church office
 - Envelopes now available for Mortgage Melt-down program
 - Joining Next Door web site as means to encourage community involvement in SJLC activities
 - Planning to post behavior expectations in the Fellowship Hall
 - Approved an amendment to the Continuing Resolutions allowing the church to hire congregation members and for church employees to be able to apply to become church members
 - Preparing spiritual practices congregational survey for later this year
 - Encouraging Thrivent members to channel their "action team" toward church projects
 - Establishing Confirmation achievement expectations and monitoring plan in time for start of next year's program
- Submitted by Tim Brown, Church Council President

Financial Update

As of the end of April

Income	\$ 87,723.49
Expenses	87,644.97
Difference	\$ 78.52

Highlights from Synod Assembly

The 32nd Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was held May 30 – June 1 at the Rochester Convention Center. St. John's was represented by Pastor Jon and Linda Flood. Worship and Witness and Fellowship events occurred throughout the event. Of special note:

- The focus of the Treasurer's Report on the ongoing need for Mission Dollars from the member congregations to the Synod for use around the world. St. John's was credited with contributing \$8,000 in 2018.
- A Lutheran Witness During Slavery in the United States of America**, an interesting presentation by Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll and Rev. Dr. Kenneth Simurro with video support.
- A report by the Women of the ELCA. Of note to me, the Upstate NY Synod Women of the ELCA 2019 Convention "And God said . . . Walk a Faithful Journey" to be held October 4-6 at Notre Dame Retreat House.
- A workshop Black/White Churches: Addressing Racism with a great reading list
- A beginning attempt at an open, on the floor discussion of the declining numbers in the churches of the Synod and the future of our churches and
- Finally, the collection of approximately \$40,000 for World Hunger during the Assembly

If there are questions, please ask. Pastor would be much more knowledgeable than me but I do represent the layperson's viewpoint.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend. I always learn something new and come back with "food for thought."

Linda Flood

Service



Melt Down the Mortgage

Our Melt Down the Mortgage campaign has begun! Please pick up an envelope on the usher's stand to make your donation towards lowering the principle on the mortgage. Track our progress on the poster at church and let's see how big we can make the puddles of the melting snowman! Talk to Beth Schroeder, Tim Brown or Pastor Jon if you have any questions.



- 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 entered a nursing home for rehabilitation work.
- Pat Hortop as she recovers from a fall.
- Marie Kesel, who is beginning radiation treatments.
- Chari Landahl as she recovers from surgery.
- Kaitlyn Stepanovich, 22 yr. old great-granddaughter of Esther Stepanovich, who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and is beginning treatments.

Garden Project Update

This year's potatoes are doing great. The sweet corn is growing nicely – as verified by the nibbling the local deer are doing. The pumpkins plants are up and growing. They do show some distress from bugs though. Thank you to everyone who's helped with weeding so far. The garden looks great!

Community Outreach Committee

Community Lutheran Ministry (Maggie's Kids) Summer Day Camp at St. John's.

Monday, July 8 is this year's event. If you haven't signed up to bring items or give some NOD

Since this is a two-month newsletter also Thank You in advance for everyone who helped. Keep watch for pictures and an update in the September newsletter.



- Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the lawn in June.
- Thank you to Sara DeMuzio for creating the high school graduates display board.
- Thank you to Linda Flood for creating the confirmation display board.
- Thank you to Les Stiles for working on soldering the organ's wires.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton for testing organ components and ordering replacements.
- Thank you to the Sunday school teachers and confirmation teachers for all their work in the last school year.
- Thank you to the women of the congregation for the great Father's Day coffee hour they provided.



Service (Cont.)



The date is set for the next week when we will host families from Family Promise; it will be from July 28 to August 4. Sign up to volunteer your time or resources to help with this event. An advance thank you to all who participate; we are confident with God's blessings we will have a successful week.

Training sessions continue to be available if you want to get involved. Contact Beth Perdan or Beth Schroeder with any questions or feedback.

The Bed Race is set for July 27th on the Canandaigua Pier. This is a fun-filled event that supports Family Promise; we were winners in last year's race and hope to repeat. Five nimble, fast people are needed to push the bed and a cheering section is always a plus. Contact Pastor or Beth Schroeder if you can help.

Lawn Mowing

St. John's needs volunteers for lawn mowing. We have beautiful property and need to take care of it. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for a week's commitment. You can grab a partner and split the work or sign up to do it all yourself whichever you prefer.

Training on our equipment is available; just contact Tom Urbanic, Chair of the Property Committee to set it up or contact Tom with any questions.



"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

© 1996 David Hartnagh. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons

Fun



June Bible Trivia Answers

1. Who was the name of the tax collector that left everything when Jesus said, "Follow me"? Answer: Levi (Luke 5:27)
2. What forbidden food did King David eat when he was hungry? Answer: The Bread of the Presence (Luke 6:4)
3. How many disciples/apostles did Jesus have? Answer: 12 (Luke 6:13)
4. In what town did Jesus raise the widow's son? Answer: Nain (Luke 7:11-15)

July/August Bible Trivia Questions

1. From where was the man for whom Jesus cast out a legion of demons?
2. Who does Jesus say his mother and brothers are?
3. How many loaves and fish did Jesus have when he fed the crowd of 5000?
4. What was Jesus doing on the boat before the windstorm came up and he calmed it?

JULY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	2 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	3 <u>Thomas, Apostle</u> 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	4 Independence Day	5 3-8 Cello Lessons	6
7 <u>4th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship CONFIRMATION CAMP at LCLC	8 Maggie's Kids Summer Day Camp 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons CONFIRMATION CAMP at LCLC	9 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers CONFIRMATION CAMP at LCLC	10 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous CONFIRMATION CAMP at LCLC	11 1:00 Women's Bible Study CONFIRMATION CAMP at LCLC	12 3-8 Cello Lessons CONFIRMATION CAMP at LCLC	13
14 <u>5th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	15 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	16 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	17 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	18 1:00 Women's Bible Study	19 3-8 Cello Lessons	20
21 <u>6th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	22 <u>Mary Magdelene, Apostle</u> 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	23 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	24 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	25 <u>James, Apostle</u> 1:00 Women's Bible Study	26 3-8 Cello Lesson	27 Family Promise Bed Race
28 <u>J.S. Bach, Musician</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Worship FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS ARRIVE	29 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS	30 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS	31 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS			

AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1:00 Women's Bible Study FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS	2 3-8 Cello Lessons FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS	3 FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS
4 <u>8th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship FAMILY PROMISE VISITORS LEAVE	5 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	6 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	7 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	8 1:00 Women's Bible Study	9 3-8 Cello Lessons	10
11 <u>9th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	12 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	13 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	14 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	15 <u>Mary, Mother of Our Lord</u> 1:00 Women's Bible Study	16 3-8 Cello Lessons	17
18 <u>10th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worsh[p 10:30 Holy Communion	19 7:00 Church Council 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	20 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	21 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	22 1:00 Women's Bible Study	23 3-8 Cello Lesson	24 <u>Bartholomew, Apostle</u>
25 <u>11th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	26 7:00 Church Council 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons	27 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	28 4-8 Piano Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	29 1:00 Women's Bible Study	30 3-8 Cello Lesson	31



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

July/August Newsletter

July 27 – Family Promise Bed Race