

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – July/August 2015

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

You've probably heard about the pope's recently released encyclical about climate change. An encyclical is an authoritative letter to the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church and is generally also intended for the general public. This encyclical has drawn quite a response. It engages issues of theology, morals, science, politics and economics. Some have praised it. Others have been critical, saying the pope should stick just to theology and leave politics and economics out.

We do not have the equivalent of an encyclical in the Lutheran Church. However, our numerous social statements fit into that category. They discuss issues from genetics to abortion to criminal justice and many others. While all of our social statements come at issues from a theological perspective they also address science, politics, economics, and other things.

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Beyond social statements Lutherans have a host of other voices. In regards to climate change, the February 2009 article of the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* ran an article by James B. Martin-Schramm entitled "Human Rights and Climate Change". Like the papal encyclical it draws on science, faith and ethics to make theological and political conclusions.

I believe it is impossible to compartmentalize life into a bunch of different categories. My faith is shaped and informed by many things, including science and politics. Similarly my views on things like economics are informed by my faith.

A look at the Bible shows similar combinations. In many places in the Bible you discover faith has been shaped by science. And as biblical scholar Susan Briehl has said, "Bad science leads to bad theology." I dare to boldly add, "Bad theology leads to bad science." Biblical books like Luke and Acts are as much about politics and economics as they are theology. (The hidden agenda behind those books was to destroy the Roman Empire and its economy. History proves it succeeded!) St. Paul's letters cover just about every topic there is. And don't forget, the book of Esther contains no theology and never even mentions God. It is simply a story to explain a holiday.

Whether you agree with the papal encyclical on climate change or not, I hope you do not try to compartmentalize your life into distinct categories. God has made us complex creatures. Let us enjoy the complexity God has created and also not settle for simple answers to things but use everything we have to fully live.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Worship

July Worship Assistants

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Greeters & Ushers	Liz & Tim Brown	Cassie & Mike Ross	Gary & Kim Boisseau	Diane & Bruce Boncke
Lector	Jeff Garnrite (8:30) Ethan Minkel (10:30)	Suzanne Maynard (8:30) Sally Mansfield (10:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30) Joe Pow (The Younger) (10:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30) Nancy Shuler (10:30)
Acolyte	Kelsey Sackett	Jaden White	Hannah Brownlee	Nolan Fields
Altar Care	No Communion		Linn Griffio	
Communion Assistants	No Communion		Rob Stroup & Joe Pow (The Younger)	
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel	Beth Perdan	Lynne Minkel	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern	Helen Crown & Tom Kurilovitch	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann

August Worship Assistants

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Greeters & Ushers	John & Gay Card	Alan & Linda Morley	Mike & Bettina Kalish	Sue Kaufmann & Helen Crown	Tom & Lisa Kurilovitch
Lector	Jeff Garnrite (8:30) Karen Spawton (10:30)	Suzanne Maynard (8:30) Linda Morley (10:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30) Alan Morley (10:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30) Wilma Townsend (10:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Kelly Wilmot (10:30)
Acolyte	Aidan Kolczynski	Emi Perdan	Marlene Stimmel	Josh Wagner	Sam Erhlinger
Altar Care	Helen Crown		Helen Crown		Helen Crown
Communion Assistants	Cindy Swigart & Phyllis Henderson		Gary Boisseau & Ethan Minkel		Bruce & Diane Boncke
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup	Beth Perdan	Katy Stimmel	Lynne Minkel	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Don Mansfield & Tim Brown	Bruce Boncke & Art Fields	Ethan & Alyssa Minkel	Nancy & Ivan Shuler

Worship (Cont.)

“Worship in the Round”

It is said that we shape our buildings and our buildings shape us. This is certainly true with church sanctuaries. The layout of the space in which you worship can have a significant impact on your understanding of God. For example, when the altar is always up front, on a platform, and surrounded by railing your sense of God’s holiness and majesty is heightened. When an altar is in the center of the room God’s attribute of community building becomes more prominent.

Fortunately for us, everything in our sanctuary is moveable! We can do many things. Beginning with the last Sunday in June and running through the end of August the altar will be moved to the center of the sanctuary and the pews will be in circles around it. Again, this is to heighten our awareness of God building community and coming to meet us where we are.

This arrangement will cause some logistical complications, especially with the distribution of communion. However, with smaller crowds in the summer months this shouldn’t cause too much trouble. So, when you come to worship don’t look for your favorite pew. It won’t be in its normal spot! Instead experience worshipping God from a different perspective.

Growth

Many of our “Growth” activities slow down over the summer months, but they don’t stop completely! Don’t forget the following opportunities:

Sundays 9:30 – Adult Sunday School

Thursdays 12:00 – Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study

Thursdays 1:00 – Women’s Bible Study

Service

Maggie’s Kids Camp

The annual “Maggie’s Kids Camp” will be held the week of July 13-17. Our day will be July 16 at the Geneva Water Park. We will provide breakfast, lunch, and a snack for the ride home. Thanks so much to everyone who helped us pull this together in a short period of time. You always come through!

Summer Outreach Projects

Lutheran World Relief Kits

Please continue to collect items for Personal Care Kits for our Lutheran World Relief project. A detailed handout will be available soon but will include bath soap, a toothbrush, nail clippers, and a sturdy comb. The items get wrapped in a dark-colored, light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"×40" & 52"×27"). The Outreach Committee learned that due to the high demand for care kits for Nepal, after the two earthquakes, LWR is encouraging churches to make the personal care kits to replenish their supply. We will begin assembling the kits after August 23rd. We will dedicate them on September 13th for “God’s Work, Our Hands Day.”

Nowhere To Go Census and Help Bags

Nowhere to God is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to addressing issues of homeless and extreme poverty in Ontario County. On July 29 a census of homeless people in the county will be taken. Volunteers are being recruited to help with this census, communications and logistics. If you are able to help in any of these ways please contact Pastor Jon.

Additionally, Help Bags for the homeless people will be distributed. Each bag will contain: socks, soap, deodorant, hat, water bottle, sunscreen, comb/brush, hand wipes, and a pack of tissues. You are encouraged to bring these items to church and place in the collection box in the Gathering Area. Again, direct any questions to Pastor Jon.



Garden Project

Look for fresh strawberries from our patch in late July and early August. Pat Quist and Ellen Storch have been looking after them and will pick them to have available for Sunday mornings. You’re welcome to pick them yourselves too. Just head up to the patch to get what you need. If you’re picking late in the week please leave some for Sunday! As always, all the money raised will go to the World Hunger offering. Also for gardeners, you can bring you excess produce to church on a Sunday morning and place it with the produce from the church garden for others to buy.

Service (Cont.) **HAITI PROJECT UPDATE –** **JUNE 2015: “**

To the members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Victor, NY: on behalf of the people in Myet in northwest Haiti, I would like to thank you profusely for your gift of the pretty sundresses and the shorts and infant clothing as well. Try to imagine people in this part of the country living on less than a dollar day, dealing not only with the ongoing drought in Haiti, resulting in high food prices (and maybe only having one meal a day), plus unemployment and health issues, and concern about the coming hurricane season. It is extra hot this summer which means that it wears everyone down more, and summer has just started. A lot of the men in Haiti left some time ago to find work elsewhere. Many who were working in the Dominican Republic are being sent back to Haiti – 200,000 of them – and there aren't jobs for them to come back to. Since we are in the second year of drought you can imagine what a big deal it is for these children *to have something new*. Food is extremely scarce – we are headed toward famine if something doesn't happen soon – so who has money for clothing? I think you can imagine – and can tell from the smiles in the photos I sent you – that receiving new clothes was a delightful gift, and the people there are all very grateful. We understand from Carol Urbanic's emails that the women of your church were very pleased to be able to use their sewing talents to make and embellish the little dresses, and that those who couldn't sew were happy to purchase ready-made shorts and rompers for the children. Deb and I know it was a real blessing to you to donate the clothing to your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and of course it was a real blessing to the kids in Myet to have new clothes. May our Lord continue to bless your church in its outreach and other projects. Know that you've made a difference in the lives of these Haitian children and their families. They would like to convey their expressions of gratitude and friendship to you as well, and will be keeping you in their prayers. Please continue to pray for them.” – *from Bruce and Deb Robinson, serving with the missionary organization Crossworld in Northwest Haiti.*

Capital Fund Update:

We continue to receive donations from the Pay It Forward Capital Campaign.
Pay It Forward Campaign Pledges for 3 years = \$66,351

Received as of 5/31 = \$35,604 (54%)

Many thanks to everyone who is contributing!! Council is looking to continue to “save up” to replace the parking lot.



The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.

Gordon and Gail Holbig as they both have health problems.

Fred Trost as he lives with Parkinsons.

The family and friends of Gordon Boncke, Bruce Boncke's father, as they mourn his death.

Christine Owens, friend of Jeanette Hare, as she begins a new round of cancer treatments.

Thank You

Thank you to Jim Spawton and Tom Kurilovitch for their work at the Great Fondue.

Thank you to everyone who helped clean out the church shed.

Thank you to the Sunday school teachers for their work in the 2014-2015 school year.

Thank you to the teachers of the confirmation class in 2014-2015

Thank you to everyone who mowed the church lawn in June.

Thank you to the Community Outreach committee and all the volunteers who helped at the sewing day making faceless dolls for Strong Hospital.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the audit of the 2014 finances.

Thank you to Rob Stroup for preaching and leading worship on June 14.

Service (Cont.)



Stewardship and Finance Committee Update

Between now and our annual stewardship campaign in the Fall, we will present ten stewardship principles in the monthly newsletter. In the section where we summarize our finances, look for two messages per month that define important aspects of stewardship. We are using materials provided by the ELCA for this stewardship education program. Please look for these short lessons and build your understanding of this critical aspect of our faith.

The summary statement from the program materials: "Our role as God's stewards is one of many dimensions - grateful, responsible, self-sacrificing, willing, sharing, proportionate, committed, regular, genuine, and challenged. By generously giving of ourselves, we discover joy in Christ. '... you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' 2 Corinthians 9:7"

	Income	Expenses	Difference
Year to Date	84,875.18		
		88,960.65	(4,085.47)

We still owe \$5,375 to the Capital Fund for money that was borrowed in February to pay bills. We are slowly chipping away at it. Income is right where we expect to be, but expenses continue to outpace our income.

COMMIT INTENTIONALLY Commit intentionally means making a statement about your intent and following through. As members in the body of Christ, we are asked to make a commitment of our time, talents, and resources as a faithful response to God and as a statement of support for God's work. "...arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised." 2 Corinthians 9:5

CONTRIBUTE REGULARLY Contribute regularly means practicing our stewardship on a daily basis. By doing so this becomes a lifestyle. Paul instructs us "*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn.*" 1 Corinthians 16:2

Fun

July Birthdays

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

August Birthdays

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



Fun (Cont.)



June Bible Trivia Questions – Miracles of Jesus

1. What widow had her dead son brought to life by Jesus? Answer: The Widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-15)
2. Where was Jesus when he miraculously escaped a crowd that was going to push him off a cliff? Answer: Nazareth (Luke 4:29-30)
3. How many loaves were used to feed the 5000? Answer: Five (Matthew 14:15-21)
4. What did Jesus say to calm the storm on the lake? Answer: "Peace, be still!" (Mark 4:39)

July/August Bible Trivia Questions – The Very Devil

1. What disciple was told by Jesus that Satan wanted to sift like wheat?
2. What king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit?
3. What woman had Jesus driven seven demons out of?
4. In Revelation, for what reason do the demons perform miracles?



Nuts and Bolts



June Council Meeting Highlights

1. 'Worship in the Round' to begin at the 10:30 service on 6.28.15, where the altar will be moved to the center of the Sanctuary, with seating surrounding it.
2. Pastor Jon vacation approved, from 6.29.15 - 7.08.15
3. Discussed the ongoing need to better prioritize the Project priorities needing to be funded, to make our ASK for giving more clear to members, and be able to better show ACTUAL results from that giving
4. Developing a master list of Church building users, in order to set clearer expectations of building use and subsequent clean-up after use, as we have had an ongoing issue with mis-use and poor clean-up by a few

organizations

5. Planning to arrive this Fall: An idea where members can sign up for Coffee Hour, as well as other activities electronically from a monthly email calendar reminder..stay tuned.

Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee is a committee required by our constitution but its function is not clearly defined. For the past few years we've used it only to address issues regarding the church staff - and there haven't been issues that have required the committee to meet! Nevertheless we thank Amy Albert, Mark Bair, Liz Brown and Don Curtis for serving on the committee.

We have recreated the committee and will add to its function performing an annual "evaluation of the fulfillment of calling" for Pastor Jon. The new members of the committee are: Judy VanDeVelde, Jim Spawton, Nancy Bassett, Dave Bullwinkle, Gay Card, and Burdie Gillern. Since the committee's function isn't clearly defined and varies from congregation to congregation, here is a suggested list of activities from the Mutual Ministry Handbook, by Bishop Robert Driesen of the Upper Susquehanna Synod:

1. Evaluate how effectively the goals of the congregation are being met both in the congregation and the world.
2. Make recommendations to the council, other committees and/or the congregation regarding how the goals may be met.
3. Dialog about perceptions and concerns within the congregation.
4. Address conflicts among members that affect the congregation's ministry.
5. Serve as a source of support for the pastor and other leaders.
6. Serve as a "focus group" representative of the congregation, as leaders share ideas for ministry.
7. Support the pastor's need for spiritual self-care.
8. Is alert to early warning signs within a congregation of misunderstanding that may eventually lead to difficulty.
9. Serve as an exit interviewer when a pastor departs from the congregation.

If you have any questions about the committee please talk to Pastor Jon or Rob Stroup.

July 2015

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

August 2015

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