

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – June 2015

## Growth

### Pastor's Paragraphs

You may have seen the recent Pew Research poll on religion in America. Its findings are unnerving, but not surprising. (You can see it online at [pewforum.org](http://pewforum.org) under the religion tab.) All church denominations are steeply declining all across the nation and among all age groups. In regards to religion, the only group that grew significantly was those who said they have no religious affiliation.

How are we to understand this? If we are to live by Jesus' Great Commission, which is to make disciples of all nations, what does such a decline mean? Is our faith in vain? Are we doing something wrong? Has God abandoned us?

These are tough questions, but I think they slip into our minds in some form or another. In response we are wise

to remember that both the church and the future are in God's hands. God's will is accomplished no matter what.

I also think we are wise to recognize the fullness of the battle we are facing. The church in America is not failing for a lack of a good marketing strategy. Nor is it failing for a lack of management or commitment or anything like that. Fundamental shifts have happened in society, and as the Pew research indicates, people simply no longer care about faith. Other studies show that narcissism is rising steeply. Inasmuch as it is possible to measure narcissism, tests suggest that the number of people with a narcissistic personality disorder doubled in the first ten years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (Twenge, Jean M. & Campbell, W. Keith *The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement* (2009))

I like to use the word "affluenza" to describe the root problem of spreading faith in America. The more comforts and possessions people have the less they feel they need God. You'll remember Jesus said how hard it is for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God. If a person sees no point to faith, no amount of marketing on our part will change their minds. But we don't quit either. We don't quit because people really do need faith, even if they don't know it.

There is a serious shortage of truth and authenticity in our society today. There is also a shortage of things that are dependable and things that last. All of these are areas our Christian faith gives us in great measure. No matter what happens around us, we hold firmly to the truth and dependability of God. We do that to not only hang onto our own faith, but it is also a witness to others. Maybe it isn't an outright evangelism strategy, but being an honest, authentic and loving person is a breath of fresh air in our society today. And that makes for a very appealing witness to faith.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

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# Worship

## June Worship Assistants

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	
Greeters & Ushers	Ivan & Nancy Shuler	Jim & Karen Spawton	John & Linda Thompson	Rob & Laura Stroup	Greeters & Ushers
Lector	Ellen Storch (8:30) Phyllis Henderson (10:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Tricia Kolczynski (10:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30) Lisa Kurilovitch (10:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Joy Lethbridge (10:30)	Lector
Acolyte	Allison Buch	Ben Deibler	Scott Wilmot	Julia Bullwinkle	Acolyte
Altar Care	Joy Lethbridge		Joy Lethbridge		Altar Care
Communion Assistants	Bruce & Connie Stevenson		Ivan & Nancy Shuler		Communion Assistants
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan	Lynne Minkel	Kristi Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Nursery Care
Counters	Ivan & Nancy Shuler	John & Linda Thompson	Burdie Gillern & Babette Huber	Helen Crown & Tom Kurilovitch	Counters

## Growth (Cont.)

### New Members

Congratulations to our newest adult member: Katrina Moore. She joined our congregation on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We don't have pictures to put in this newsletter but be sure to see her on the photo board of members.

## Sunday School Year

Reminder: June 7, 2015 is our last day of Sunday School until the fall.

### Confirmation

Confirmation is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Congratulations to: Joshua Albert, Conrad Bremer and Laura DeMuzio who will be confirmed during worship that day! Be sure to support these youth as they move into adult membership.



## Service

### The Great Fondue!

You won't want to miss the four-course fondue experience we are planning for May 30<sup>th</sup>! It is an event to raise money for the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard. You'll start off with the cheese course, dipping bread and vegetables into a rich warm cheese sauce. Then cleanse your palate with a fresh salad. The main course will be a variety of meats and vegetables cut into bite-size portions that you'll cook to your preference in hot broth. Finish your meal with the s'mores bar. Our "chef," Jim Spawton, will be using his skills to delight your taste buds.

There will be two sittings: 5pm and 7pm. Tickets will be available in the Gathering Area for the next few weeks. Cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to buy tickets.

## Service (Cont.)

### Maggie's Kids Summer Day Camp Is it on... or not?

Financial difficulties has put Community Lutheran Ministries into a tough position. It is questionable as to whether their summer day camp will occur this year. If it does it will be in a simpler, lower cost form. A few leaders from their board of directors and a couple leaders from the Genesee-Finger Lakes Conference of the ELCA are exploring what might still be possible. Look for information in the church bulletin and on our Facebook page as we learn more.

### Outreach Committee



Sewing Day has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 9:30. We will be making faceless dolls for Golisano Children's Hospital. Join us if you are available. There are activities that non-sewers can do to help with this project. If you have any questions contact Marlys Braunlich or Jeanette Hare.

**SUMMER OUTREACH PROJECT:** please start collecting items for Personal Care Kits over the next three months for a Lutheran World Relief project. A detailed handout will be available soon but the items are to include bath soap, a toothbrush, nail clippers, and a sturdy comb. All of the items get wrapped in a dark-colored, light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" & 52"x27"). The Outreach Committee was informed 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 September 20<sup>th</sup>.



### How Does Your 'Garden Project' Grow?

Our strawberries made it through the winter and are on track to give a nice crop in July and August. Potatoes have been planted at the Wyman's property in Bloomfield and pumpkins will soon follow. The potatoes will be donated to the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard for them to distribute. Strawberries, pumpkins and other produce grown will be sold to the congregation with the money raised going to the World Hunger appeal. If you have any extra plants or seeds you are welcome to donate them and we'll add them to the garden. There's always plenty of space. Talk to Pastor Jon for more information.



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.  
Linda Ellis who has metastases on her spine and hip.  
The family and friends of John Roberts (Marge Stepanovich's father) as they mourn his death.  
Gordon Boncke, Bruce Boncke's father, whose health has been declining and he is in the hospital.  
Geoff Bright who had a stent installed to clear a blocked artery.

## Service (Cont.)

### Thank Yous

Thank you to everyone who helped with the spring clean up day on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to everyone who helped mow the lawn in May.

Thank you to the men of the church for their special coffee hour on Mothers' Day

Thank you to Connie Stevenson for her work in the Memorial Garden.

Thank you Mary Ehrlinger, Molly Perdan and Beth Schroeder for their special music during worship in May.

Thank you to Dave Bullwinkle and Judy Coyle for leading music the first week in May.



### 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	64,961.68	73,173.17	(8,191.49)

Thank you for keeping up with your pledges to St. John's! Although income is right where expected, our expenses during the winter months have exceeded our income. We still owe \$5,735 to the Capital Fund from what was borrowed in February. Let's pray that now that Spring is here, we can keep our expenses way down so we can catch up a bit!

### SHARE ABUNDANTLY

Share abundantly as we have received. The purpose of these gifts is for the good of the community of God. We give to build up the body of Christ. We use and Share our gifts for the benefit of all. *"...and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."* 2 Corinthians 9:8

### GIVE PROPORTIONATELY

Give proportionately is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our "means," not according to an income or a budget. *"If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have."* 2 Corinthians 8:12



### Church Picnic/Block Party

June 20 at 3pm,

Food served at 5pm.

Sign up sheet is now available!

There will be games for all ages, a bounce house, and food.





## Fun (Cont.)



### May Bible Trivia Questions

1. In what city were the disciples on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them in tongues of fire? Answer: Jerusalem (Acts 1:4, 12-14)
2. Which disciple gave a speech to the crowds on the day of Pentecost? Answer: Peter (Acts 2:14)
3. How many people were baptized on the Pentecost day the Spirit came upon the disciples? Answer: 3000 (Acts 2:41)
4. In addition to the tongues of fire and sound of wind, what was the third miraculous thing experienced by the disciples on that Pentecost day? Answer: Speaking in foreign languages (Acts 2:6)

### June Bible Trivia Questions – Miracles of Jesus

1. What widow had her dead son brought to life by Jesus?
2. Where was Jesus when he miraculously escaped a crowd that was going to push him off a cliff?
3. How many loaves were used to feed the 5000?
4. What did Jesus say to calm the storm on the lake?

## June Birthdays

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Pamela Stark   |
| 4  | Chuck Matthews, John Thompson                                      |
| 5  | Blake Stevenson, Mark Wyman, David Bullwinkle, Joshua Jason Wagner |
| 6  | Abigail Bullwinkle   |
| 7  | Linda Morley   |
| 8  | Angela Ratka, Tierney White  |
| 9  | Sarah Boncke, Heidi Griffith                                       |
| 10 | Kim Years  |
| 12 | Cory Bremer  |
| 13 | Becky Nohe   |
| 15 | Bob Chambers   |
| 16 | Sara DeMuzio, Nicole Albert  |
| 18 | Belinda Patrone, Aidan Kolczynski                                  |
| 19 | Stephanie Rice   |
| 20 | Mark Reissig   |
| 21 | Allison Bright   |
| 22 | Samuel Phillips  |

- |    |                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 25 | Richard Henderson                    |
| 27 | Mike Allen, Cory Christie            |
| 28 | Connie Stevenson                     |
| 29 | Michele Howland Castle, Brent Weicht |

## Nuts and Bolts



### Special Congregational Meeting

On Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> we will have a special congregational meeting after the 10:30 worship service. We will discuss and vote on constructing a bell tower in front of our building. A rendition of the proposed tower is pictured above. Financing for the project comes from special donors interested in the project and money already in hand designated to be used for something of lasting and enduring value in memory of Jill Pow and Scott Swigart.

### May Council Meeting Highlights

-Corey Bremer presented his Eagle Scout project, plans for building steps from the lower parking lot of St. John's to the upper lot. Council approved his proceeding with the project through proper channels at Victor Planning Board.

-Currently, as of this Meeting, there has been no interest shown via our Craig's List posting, for anyone wishing to pursue our idea of a Faith-based daycare.

-Confirmation students all approved, with one student having a project criteria to meet prior to Confirmation.

-Discussed the need to identify & prioritize upcoming church projects, and communicate those transparently to the Congregation in order for members to choose more prudently what they may want to 'Donate to When'.

-Identified June 7<sup>th</sup> as the Sunday to hold Congregational Meeting to discuss the pro's & con's of Bell Tower project.

# June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:30-6:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:15-7:00 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>3</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>4</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Holy Yoga	<b>5</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>8</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:30-6:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:15-7:00 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>10</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>11</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Women's Bible Study  6:30 Holy Yoga	<b>12</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	<b>15</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:30-6:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:15-7:00 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>17</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>18</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study  1:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Holy Yoga	<b>19</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	<b>20</b>  3:00 Church Picnic/Block Party
<b>21</b> <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Holy Communion  Father's Day	<b>22</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:30-6:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  3:15-7:00 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>24</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care  7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>25</b>  12:00 Bible Study  1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b>  3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <u>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Worship	<b>29</b>  3:30-6:30 Violin Lessons	<b>30</b>  3:15-7:00 Violin Lessons  5:30 Weight Watchers				