

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – June 2020

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

If things continue to go as they are it might be possible for us to resume some form of in-person worship in July. The church council is at work exploring options and considering changes that will have to be made. One thing I'm quite certain that will continue is online worship. While I don't know exactly what that will look like I believe it will be blending of online and in person. So, for example, some of the readers may be in the sanctuary and some will be online.

The question of celebrating communion is complicated. I like to make a comparison with having a Super Bowl party. For a Super Bowl party you need three things: the game, food, and friends. Take away any one of those parts and you come up short. It just isn't a Super Bowl party. Now consider communion. There are three things as well: gathering of people, the bread & wine, and the promise of Jesus (spoken part of the communion service). Take away any of those three and it just isn't communion anymore.

Some congregations are doing it online. That can work, but you don't really have in-person community. Some have had worshippers gather in the parking lot. Again, that can work, but you're still missing the in-person community. Church leaders and theologians have shared a lot of thoughts about the whole situation. Our own bishop has been discouraging communion when there is no in-person worship, but he is not criticizing those who do.

When we do resume in-person worship I believe it will be complicated and a bit confusing at first. Safety guidelines will certainly make worship feel different! People are also going to respond unequally. Some will be willing. Some will feel uncomfortable, or unsafe. Some have healthy bodies. Some have compromised health. I think it is important that we value and respect the many ways people will come to their decisions. Ultimately though, I want everyone to be able to receive the tangible grace of God that we have whenever we celebrate communion.

Though this is far from a perfect plan, I am thinking of resuming communion when we resume in-person worship. However it will not only be for those

physically present in the building. We will do our best to include those online. To do that we will continue to use the simple bread recipe we've shared the last couple months. Everyone (in-person and online) will at least be eating the same bread. Wine is more tricky. However, we are all still consuming the same "fruit of the vine" that Jesus spoke of at the Last Supper.

God's grace is bigger and more powerful than any virus. It is something we can count on. It is something we can trust. And I'm certain there are ways we can celebrate that grace in communion that is safe, theologically sound, and effective at uniting us as the Body of Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Confirmation

Congratulations to this year's confirmands!

Abigail Bullwinkle

Olivia DeLeon

Amalia Ireland

Morgan Sackett

Tierney White

Joseph Wyman

They have completed the two- year confirmation program and fulfilled its requirements.

We would normally celebrate their confirmation on the day of Pentecost. However, since we cannot have in-person worship we will postpone their confirmation until we can gather them in-person.

Men's Breakfast – 1st Wednesdays

The Men's Breakfast will continue this summer but drop to meeting just the first Wednesday of the month. If you would like to join in please ask Pastor Jon for the Zoom link.

Worship

Sunday Worship Using Zoom

Sunday worship continues at 10:30 via Zoom.

If you have a computer and internet connection:

The link to the service is emailed out. For security reasons it is no longer directly available on the website.

If you cannot connect with a computer:

You can still hear and participate in the service with any phone. Use the most appropriate phone number below and enter the meeting number when you are asked. (Note the meeting ID has changed since last month.) Jonathan Deibler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 834 9025 1842

Password: 778805



June Bible Readings for Worship

In June we will begin a several month long worship series on the Jewish kings. We'll be reading from 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings. We don't often think about the time of the Jewish monarchy but it is a sizeable part of the Bible. Even though we are Christian and not Jewish, these stories are a foundational part of Jesus own ministry.

June 7 – Pre-kings; 1 Samuel 8

June 14 – King Saul; 1 Samuel 9-10:8

June 21 – King David as a young man;

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

June 28 – King David solidifying the nation;

2 Samuel 1:1-16

Shared Bread

1st Sunday of the Month

The first Sunday of the month you are invited to make a the simple bread recipe below and eat it while we are worshipping. While it isn't communion it is our community of faith sharing the same food.

1 cup flour

2 Tbsp oil

1/3 cup water

1/8 tsp salt

1 Tbsp sugar

Mix all ingredients, split into four balls, press each ball on a cookie sheet to the flatness of a sugar cookie, then bake 10-12 minutes in a 425 degree oven

Altar Candles “on Tour”

During the Easter season our baptismal font toured from household to household. Each week a different family poured water into the font at the beginning of worship and led a thanksgiving for baptism.

For the summer Pentecost season the altar candles will be going on tour. Each week a different family will light the candles in their home and lead a prayer that is printed in the bulletin. Even when (if) we are able to return to in-person worship sometime this summer we will certainly be maintaining our Zoom worship services. The candles will continue on tour symbolizing our dispersed congregation.

Service



June 5

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The June 5 blood drive originally scheduled to take place at the Victor United Methodist Church has been relocated to St. John's. The same precautions as the last two drives will be observed: very limited volunteer staff, everyone has their temperature checked before admittance, masks worn by everyone at all times, surfaces wiped down with alcohol wipes after every contact, and only prepackaged rejuvenation snacks. The Red Cross is very grateful for our continued hospitality at a time when blood is needed, but many organizations feel unable to be host sites.

Service (Cont.)



Sunday School Teachers:

A big thank you to our Sunday school teachers as this school year comes to its close. This year they not only led the in-person activities but also continued things online!

Jen White
Wendy Sackett
Kristi Bullwinkle
Laura Stroup
Trudy Wyman
Nancy Shuler

A special thank you to Jen White for organizing things when we starting doing things online.

- Thank you to Bettina Kalish for counting the offerings and other income each week.
- Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with the food cupboard emergency food distribution: Jim Spawton, Joe Pow, Burdie Gillern, Tim Brown, Adele Garvey, Nancy Pape, Katy Stimmel, and Gary Wood.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped with music for our Zoom worship services.
- Thank you to everyone who helped mow the church lawn in May.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with planting the garden project.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped in readings in our worship services.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton and Gary Boisseau for helping provide greater security for our Zoom worship services.
- Thank you to John CiPollina and Bruce Stevenson for installing wiring throughout the building to improve internet signal strength.

Food Cupboard News

From the food cupboard:

We will not be at the Victor Farm Market this summer, but we are looking for a way to support farmers and make sure our shoppers have access to fresh produce. Stay tuned on that.

The Victor Howard Hanna office in Mead Square will be hosting a popup drive thru food drive on June 13th 10 am to 2 pm.

Please please please do not hesitate to come to the Food Cupboard on Wednesdays and Sundays. 2 to 4 pm if you

need food. You do not need to fill out paperwork or answer a lot of questions, and the whole process is drive thru so no need to get out of your vehicle.

If you cannot bear the thought of coming please feel free to access the Little Free Pantries around town--we will post that list later today but there is one in front of the Victor Farmington Library, one on High Street in Victor and one in front of St. John's Lutheran in Victor. Call us if you have questions, we are happy to help and Beth is answering the phone today--couldn't ask for a nicer voice at the other end!! (585)924-2720.



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester and their missionary work in Zambia.
- 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.
- Knut Halvorson, who is living in Aria Nursing Home in Penfield.
- Kevin Sackett as he receives chemotherapy and has the treatments adjusted.
- The family and friends of Jennie Wendt, grandmother of Lisa Kurilovitch, as they mourn her death.
- Fran Mann, Babette Huber's mother, as she recovers from fractures received from a fall.
- The family and friends of Don Harmon, colleague of Scott Flood, as they mourn his death.
- Amy Maningo, colleague of Scott Flood, who was recently diagnosed with an advanced case of ALS.
- The family and friends of Joseph Ousey, father of Pat CiPollina, as they mourn his death. He died from complications to injuries sustained while trying to repair his garage door.

From the ELCA: COVID-19 Response Fund

With congregations and ministries across the country, and a network of companion churches and partners in over 70 countries around the world, we anticipate this crisis will affect us all. Your gifts to the ELCA's [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. **If you are able, please help with a gift today.**

Nuts and Bolts

May Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on May 18. Major items were:

-Approving for confirmation: Abigail Bullwinkle, Olivia DeLeon, Amalia Ireland, Morgan Sackett, Tierney White, and Joseph Wyman

-In-person worship *may* resume when the area reaches “Stage 4” of reopening according to state guidelines. The earliest that could be is July.

-Changing internet service provider from Frontier to Spectrum

-Approved the installation of a Food Blessing Box on the church property. This will be tended by local neighborhoods and is in cooperation with the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard

-Conversation about practices and policies for when we are able to return to worshipping together. This includes building changes/improvements, especially the installation of UV lighting in the sanctuary air ducts to purify the air it circulates.

Preventing the Spread of Disease

-Building Improvements-

The coronavirus appears to spread many ways, including on surfaces and “aerosol” action. The Property Committee is at work to minimize the possibility of our building spreading the virus. Major things in the works are:

-Installing UV lights in the sanctuary’s HVAC ducts

-Servicing the ventilation systems in the bathrooms, kitchen, and fellowship hall

-Purchasing and installing hand sanitizer dispensers in various areas

-Updating building use guidelines for the congregation and outside groups who use the building

Finances

YTD Income \$78,717.80

YTD Expenses \$66,705.69

From the Treasurer:

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to those individuals and families who have graciously given their entire yearly pledges in full. This is a challenging time for everyone in so many different ways. Many people, businesses, and institutions are facing financial hardships. Thanks to people committing their yearly pledges, continuing to make their regular offerings, and those who contribute what they can, St. John’s is in a great financial position. The bills keep coming, but

thanks to all of you, we are able to do so comfortably. It makes me proud to be a part of the St. John’s family.

Regards,
Rob Stroup
Treasurer

Fun



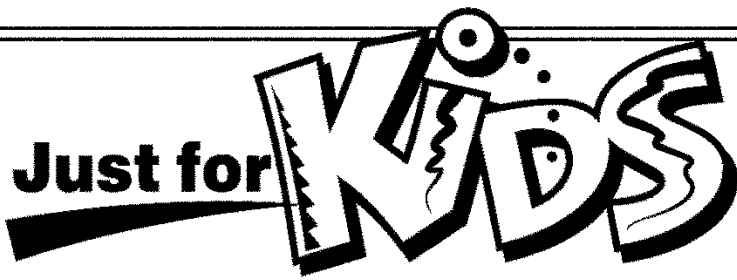
May Bible Trivia Answers:

1. Where does Jesus say you *do not* put a lamp after lighting it? Answer: Under a bushel basket (Matthew 5:15)
2. Complete this sentence: “Where your treasure is...” Answer: “...there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)
3. Jesus says he has not come to abolish the law but to what? Answer: Fulfill it (Matthew 5:17)
4. Jesus says if someone takes your coat to give what as well? Answer: Your cloak (Matthew 5:40)

June Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers can be found in the chapters we’ll be reading in worship during June.

1. Who was the first king of Israel?
2. What prophet anointed the first two kings of Israel?
3. What was King David’s hometown?
4. What Philistine “giant” did David kill with his slingshot?



A black and white line drawing of a young boy sitting on the ground under a large, leafy tree. He is wearing a short-sleeved shirt and shorts, and is holding an open book, looking down at it. In the background, there are several stylized evergreen trees. In the foreground, a portion of a rectangular object, possibly a picnic basket or a bag, is visible.

1.
A baby is born
in a stable.
Jesus feeds 5000
with 2 fish and
5 loaves.
A man dies and
comes back to
life.

3.
The Queen
of Persia
saves her
people from
evil Haman.

6.
Advice
to live by.

7.
The creation.
A beautiful
garden.
A great flood.

H m x n t q A h a k d



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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