

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – March 2016

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

The Bible is full of stories of miracles: healings, feedings, rescues, humans controlling the forces of nature, and many others. People often ask if these miracles are historically true. Accompanying those questions are questions about the Bible's historical accuracy.

The answers to those questions are really complex. Those who insist on reading the Bible on a purely literal level miss the figurative and allegorical levels of the Bible, and that is where the deepest truths are often found. Those who simply reject the Bible as a product of the ignorant past are turning a blind eye to the revelation of God and the wisdom of centuries of human culture.

However, when push comes to shove there are really only two things the Bible teaches us that we must believe. The first is easy to accept: Jesus of Nazareth was wrongfully crucified. The second is much harder: Jesus of Nazareth was resurrected from the dead.

Paul's words to the church in Corinth sum up the centrality of the resurrection for our lives, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." (1 Corinthians 15:17, 19)

The resurrection is probably the hardest of all miracles to believe. It is completely foreign to every other experience in life, and there are no scientifically verifiable proofs. (The best we can say is an argument from the negative – Jesus is the most famous person who ever lived yet there is no body!) Exactly what happened and how it happened is impossible to explain. These are

mysteries we cannot penetrate. Even those who witnessed the resurrected Christ first hand had doubts and questions! (Matthew 28:17)

The power of the resurrection does not lie in our ability to force our minds to believe a miracle. Its power resides in whether we build our lives around the hope it creates, or not. Doubts will always be with us. True faith inspired by God will make it real in our lives despite our doubts. May God bring the truth of the resurrection alive in all our words and deeds.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Worship



Holy Week is the last week of Lent. This year it runs from March 20 to March 27. Here are the special worship services planned for that week:

March 20 – Palm Sunday, procession with palms at both services, children's Easter egg hunt
March 24 – Maundy Thursday, 6:00 covered dish dinner in the sanctuary with communion
March 25 – Good Friday, 7:00 worship
March 27 – Easter, 6:00 Sunrise service of Holy Communion, 9:00 Pancake Breakfast, 10:30 Holy Communion

Worship

March Worship Assistants

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Greeters & Ushers	Phyllis & Dick Henderson	Kim & Gary Boisseau	Diane & Bruce Boncke	Tim & Liz Brown
Lector	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Paul Huber (10:30)	Susie Maynard (8:30) Tricia Kolczynski (10:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30) Lisa Kurilovitch (10:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30) Rob Stroup (10:30)
Acolyte	Josh Wagner	Sam Erhlinger	Ben Deibler	Scott Wilmot
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield		Sally Mansfield	Sally Mansfield
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann & Linda Flood		Don & Sally Mansfield	Ethan & Lynne Minkel
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Beth Perdan	Lynne Minkel
Counters	Helen Crown & Tom Kurilovitch	John & Linda Thompson	Babette Huber & Burdie Gillern	Tom Kurilovitch & Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour				

Lenten Worship Continues

Our Lenten worship series focused on faith issues people often misunderstand continues for the first three Wednesdays in March. They start at 6:00 with a soup and bread supper, then a half-hour worship service starts at 6:30. The schedule in March is:

3/2 Grace and freewill

3/9 Salvation for nonbelievers?

3/16 The problem of pain

These sermons will also be posted on the website.

Easter Flowers

Order flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday and then take them home to enjoy. Stella's Florist is working with us to provide the same choices as last year without a price increase. The choices are: Lilies, Hyacinths, Daffodils and Tulips; all priced at \$9. Please see the order sheet posted in the Gathering Area to place your order. The order deadline in March 13th.

Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is again part of our Lenten journey. There is a collection box in the Gathering Area for you to put your **dryer lint, used dryer sheets, old**

crayons and stubs of candles. This worthless stuff (and somewhat gross) will be melted together and burnt on the fire at the sunrise service on Easter.

Service



Providing warmth for our region's homeless

REACH Home Meals in the Works

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in helping provide a meal or meals for the new homeless shelter opened by the Rochester Emergency Action Committee for the Homeless. We're in touch with Bridget Carey, their contact person for meals in order to learn more about this. They're also looking for people to help staff the house. You are welcome to volunteer, but as a congregation we'll start with meals.

Service (Cont.)

Community Outreach Committee



World Hunger Barns

Thank you to everyone who took a barn bank and is contributing to buy goats for the ELCA Good Gifts program. Every family is encouraged to donate enough during Lent for half a goat - \$25. Banks are still available if you didn't get one yet. A collection box is available in the Gathering Area to return your banks.

Souper Bowl Results

Thanks so much for contributions to the "Souper" Bowl. We received \$139.96 which will be sent to World Hunger

Sewing Day

"Sewing Day" will be at church on Wednesday, April 13 starting at 9:15 am. We plan to make faceless dolls for Strong's Children's Unit and everyone is welcome to attend. There are plenty of tasks to complete whether you are an experienced seamstress or a non-sewer.



Church Orchard Update

Thank you to everyone who offered to sponsor a tree in our church orchard. The fruit they eventually provide will be donated to the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard. Cornell Cooperative Extension has helped us identify some apple trees that should suit us well. The trees will be ordered soon and will arrive when it is time to plant them. Look to the church's Facebook page for information on the planting date.

Thank You

-Thank you everyone who helped with cooking at the Fat Tuesday pancake supper.
-Thank you to the Sunday school children and their teachers for creating and leading the 10:30 worship service on February 7th.

-Thank you to everyone in the congregation who helps with the Neighbors in Ministry to Seniors program.
-Thank you to Dave Bullwinkle for helping to lead worship when Pastor Jon was at St. Timothy in Geneseo on February 7.

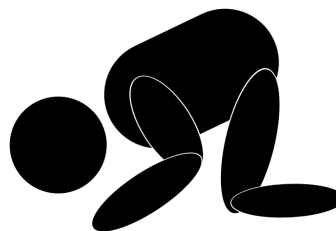


Sunday School Food Cupboard Field Trip

This year we have assembled several "birthday bags" which include all the supplies for a child's birthday party. This has been made possible through the donations of our teachers and student families. It has become a tradition for our 5th/6th Grade Class to personally deliver these items.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about community service, helping those in need and receive a personal tour of the VFFC.

We have scheduled our Victor Farmington Food Cupboard trip for March 6th during the Sunday School hour.



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 lives in poor health.
Janet Castillo, sister of Phyllis Henderson, who is having chest pains and is awaiting treatment.
Jeanette Hare who is recovering from pneumonia very slowly and only recently returned home.
Huck Storch, newborn son of Adam and Kristiana Storch, who was born on January 29.
Cira Stevenson, newborn daughter of Blake and Sophia Stevenson, who was born on January 25.

Service (Cont.)



The Great Fondue!

If you missed it last year, you don't want to miss it this year! Our second "Great Fondue" four-course fondue experience is planned for March 5th! 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. For every five tickets sold you get one free.

Fun

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Joy Lethbridge, Carol Reissig |
| 2 | Cindy Christie |
| 4 | Judy Coyle |
| 6 | Wima Townsend |
| 8 | Kalena Boisseau |
| 9 | Todd Mansfield, Jessica Castle |
| 12 | Kathy Bell, Darryl Edmunds, Carolyn Bremer |
| 13 | Nancy Clarkson |
| 16 | Susan Menz |
| 17 | Jessica Thompson |
| 19 | Keith Kaufmann |
| 21 | Ivan Shuler, Susie Maynard |
| 22 | Babette Huber |
| 23 | Benjamin Deibler |

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 24 | Tom Larson, Leslie Finke |
| 25 | Scott Flood, Gail Tiller |
| 27 | Jim Behrens |
| 28 | Marjorie Stepanovich |
| 30 | Ian Patric, Jeanette Hare |

Lenten Breakfasts on Sundays

During Lent we'll have a breakfast of eggs and a pastry right after the 8:30 service. Enjoy a Sunday meal with your brothers and sisters in Christ! There's no need to sign up.



February Bible Trivia Answers – Cave Dwellers

1. Who lived in a cave with his daughters after Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed? Answer: Lot (Genesis 19:30)
2. What friend of Jesus was buried in a cave? Answer: Lazarus (John 11:38)
3. What prophet, fleeing from Jezebel, hid in a cave? Answer: Elijah (1 Kings 19:9)
4. What hero hid in caves to avoid the wrath of King Saul? Answer: David (1 Samuel 22-23)

March Bible Trivia Questions – Crucifixion and Resurrection

1. Two whom did Jesus say, "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in paradise"?
2. How many criminals were executed with Jesus?
3. What person at the foot of the cross said, "Truly this man was the Son of God"?
4. According to Luke what sort of being (or beings) stood by the empty tomb in dazzling clothes when the women visited on Easter morning?



Fun (Cont.)



Pancake Breakfast

End Lent the same way it began – with pancakes! Indulging in the annual Easter pancake breakfast! Just like on Fat Tuesday we'll have pancakes, sausage, and all sorts of rich toppings including whipped cream, pie fillings and syrup. We'll start serving at 9:00 and go until about 10:00



Youth Group

Capture the Flag – Nerf Style

All high school and middle school youth are invited to play capture the flag – nerf style! We'll play inside with one team in the youth room and one team in the fellowship hall. Bring your own nerf gun or there will be some extras. We'll pick a Sunday afternoon in April for the event so look to your email for the date. Talk to Beth Schroeder or Pastor Jon for more information.



Nuts and Bolts



February Council Highlights

Council officers for 2016:

Rob Stroup – President

Tom Kurilovitch – Vice President

Tricia Kolczynski – Secretary

Jill Ehrlinger – Treasurer

Sam Stepanovich – Financial Secretary

See the 2016 directory for the council liaisons to the committees and committee chair people.

The council reviewed the decisions made at the annual congregational meeting and began to create a vision for the congregation in 2016.

New Members

Please welcome our newest members: Bob and Sheri Landahl as they join St. John's on February 28th.

2016 Church Directory Printed

The 2016 church directory has just been printed. Thank you for the updates you submitted. Paper copies will be put in your mailbox at church. We'll also email an electronic version to those who have email. Please check your information in the new directory and submit any corrections or additional updates to the church office. We'll include corrections in the next newsletter.

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	2 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4-8 Piano Lessons 6:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	3 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers 12:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship and Music Committee 7:00 Girl Scouts	4 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	5 5 & 7 The Great Fondue
6 <u>4th Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Sunday School leads Worship	7 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	9 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	10 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers 12:00 Bible Study	11 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	12
13 <u>5th Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	14 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	16 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	17 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers 12:00 Bible Study 7:00 Girl Scouts	18 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:00-8:00 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	19 8:00-1:00 Vipassina Meditation
20 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Easter Egg Hunt	21 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	23 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	24 <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study 6:00 Covered Dish Worship & Holy Communion	25 <u>Good Friday</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 7:00 Worship	26
27 <u>Easter</u> 6:00 Sunrise Holy Communion 9:00 Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Holy Communion	28 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 10:00 Holy Yoga 3:30-8:30 Violin Lessons	29 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 1:00 Women's Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Wght Wtchs 7:00 Property Comm 7:00 Community Chorus	30 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	31 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers 12:00 Bible Study		