

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – November 2016

Special Congregational Meeting November 20

We will hold a special congregational meeting on November 20th following the 10:30 worship service. There will be two items of business on the agenda. The first is the Family Promise program that our congregation is being asked to participate in. See Rob Stroup's article about that on this page.

The second item is approval to proceed with the bell tower. While we approved this before there has been a technical change that need to be approved. The overall project is the same. Also, the project is being funded by donations already given or pledged for the project. There will be no impact on our operating budget.

Family Promise

Hopefully, by now you have heard about the Family Promise program. In late September, Kathleen Wagner visited us after worship to discuss this program, which is designed to provide homeless families with children an opportunity to get back on their feet. She has succinctly described this program not as a handout, but a "hand up." The intent is for families to stay with host congregations throughout Ontario County. The host congregations provide overnight lodging, meals, hospitality, and fellowship for the families. There will likely be four families, with up to fourteen individuals, that will stay with a host congregation at a time. The families with children would be at churches from 5:30 pm to 7:30 am each day. During the days, the families are transported to a local "Day Center" where the Family Promise Network Director provides case management services. At the Day Center, guests pursue employment, tend pre-school children, shower, and do laundry.

The Family Promise program is a national organization that has been in existence since 1985, so there is a successful track record for this program. The Rochester program has been in existence for 12+ years. The strength of the program is in its volunteers, who would take shifts in staying with the families. Congregations are asked to supply volunteers to cook and serve dinner, play with children, potentially

help with homework, and stay overnight in a safe environment.

The Ontario County Family Promise program is looking for churches to prayerfully consider acting as host congregations for four weeks per year. Thus far, Family Promise has commitments from five congregations, and they are hoping to have eight more congregations agree to host so that they could offer year-round shelter (13 hosts for 4 weeks each = 52 weeks of coverage!) for families who are working toward bettering their life situations. The hope is to have families "graduate" from this program and find sustainable housing and employment. Then, new families could enter the program in hopes that homelessness becomes less of an issue in our area, with our efforts focusing on homeless families. The earliest that Family Promise could launch this ministry is summer 2017, but they need pledges of support in the near-term.

We are all fortunate to have homes for our families. The families that enter this program in hopes of achieving what most of us take for granted – shelter and food. We have this tremendous opportunity to provide a temporary home for four families for four weeks out of the year. What can we get out of this? Aside from the positive feelings for helping others, there is an added underlying benefit to being a part of this program. We have an evangelism opportunity dropped literally at our doorstep! I'm not talking about a Bible-thumping, in your face "Jesus saves us all" approach. We can sit and visit with families, cook them a meal, stay with them to show that Christ called us to look into our hearts and give us a willingness to serve in this ministry. Matthew 25:40 – *The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

If volunteering speaks to you, then please speak with either myself, Pastor Jon, or anyone on council. I hope that you will all give it serious consideration. We intend to make a decision whether to pursue serving as a host congregation by mid-November.

Yours in Christ,
Rob Stroup
Church Council President

Worship

November Worship Assistants

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
Greeters & Ushers	Karen & Jim Spawton	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Dick & Phyllis Henderson	Tom & Lisa Kurilovitch
Lector	Kevin Maynard (8:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30)
Acolyte	Sarah Brownlee	Julia Bullwinkle	Kelsey Sackett	Ally Buch
Altar Care	Liz Brown		Liz Brown	
Communion Assistants	Jill Erhlinger & Sam Stepanovitch		Sue Kaufmann & Linda Flood	
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel	Kristi Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Lynne Minkel
Counters	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	Nancy & Ivan Shuler	Tom Kurilovitch & Helen Crown
Coffee Hour	Linda Flood	Becky, Joy & Ellen	Stewardship and Finance	Cindy Swigart

Pastor's Paragraphs

For decades our congregation has used the Revised Common Lectionary to select the Bible readings we use in Sunday worship. Many congregations across the world use this lectionary. This means that whether you're Lutheran or Roman Catholic or Methodist or Presbyterian or of one of many other churches you experience the same Bible readings as everyone else. The Revised Common Lectionary has been a great way for Christians across the world to be connected.

However, the Revised Common Lectionary has some serious shortcomings. One, it doesn't cover all of the Bible. There are many topics and stories never covered in worship. Two, it assumes people have a thorough understanding of the entire Bible. And three, because it chops biblical books into little pieces and rearranges the pieces it often ruins the broader context of the passage.

Several years ago Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota created a new lectionary called the Narrative Lectionary. This lectionary chooses one book of the Bible and reads it straight through over several weeks or months. That way a complete story unfolds as it was intended to.

The Narrative Lectionary has some shortcomings too, but the Worship and Music Committee and the church council would like to give it a try. At the beginning of the next church year – Sunday, November 27th, we'll begin reading the Gospel of Matthew. We'll be covering

the birth stories of Jesus at Christmas and by Easter we'll be reading the resurrection stories. Some weeks we'll have just a few verses. Other weeks we'll be covering three or more chapters. For the longer passages we'll use multiple readers. Sermons will shift more to a Bible study format in order to more deeply explore the story of Jesus as Matthew presents it.

If we like this approach we'll continue it beyond Easter with a different book of the Bible – probably Genesis. But we'll wait to see how it goes before we make that decision. If you're a 10:30 worship attender and you'd like a preview of how it works stop in for the 8:30 service. We're giving it a trial run right now.

As always, your feedback is important. If you like something please say so. If you don't, then also say so. The Worship and Music Committee works hard to create worship experiences that are inspiring, creative and relevant. If we don't know how worship is impacting you it is hard to make plans.

While we're on the topic of worship, having numerous worship participants at the 10:30 service appears to be going very well. I intend to just let it continue. You'll notice there are no lectors assigned in November. If you have thoughts or ideas for worship or other ministries please let me know. Not all ideas turn into reality, but we are all on this journey together and it should be a creative and inspiring trip!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

Worship (Cont.)

All Saints Remembrance

All Saints Sunday is November 6th. As a part of worship services that day the names of all congregational members and friends of the congregation who have died during the past year will be read. If you have a friend or family member you'd like to have included in the prayers please give the name to Pastor Jon.

Growth



Jacob the Patriarch Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school will take the first two weeks of November off because of a new member class, but then resumes on November 20. We'll look at the life of Jacob the patriarch of Israel. He pulled off many underhanded schemes, but was also taken advantage of himself. He was strong yet his three wives and their slaves always managed to outmaneuver him. For most of his life he was a manipulative coward, but God develops him into a strong and courageous leader. You're invited to join in any or all of the weeks.

Bishop's Agenda for the Synod and Transforming Congregations Event

Sunday November 6th at 2:30 you're invited to go to Incarnate Word Lutheran Church in Rochester to hear Bishop Macholz's agenda and vision for the synod in the next few years. The Rev. Norma Malfatti, assistant to the bishop for congregational mission, will also be there to lead conversations about transformational ministry in congregations. The event is expected will go until about 7:30 and will include supper. Talk to Pastor Jon if you'd like to attend or for more information.

Service

Community Outreach Projects



Thanksgiving Baskets

The Food Cupboard will be assembling and distributing Thanksgiving baskets on November 16 and 17 at the Farmington United Methodist Church. Help is needed; you can sign up to work whenever you are available for Wednesday 8:30 am- 6:00 pm and Thursday, 8:30 am – 9:00.

Donations of food needed include

Gravy (12 oz can)

Corn (15 oz cans)

Green beans (15 oz cans)

Cr of Mushroom Soup (15 oz cans)

Fried Onions Rings (6 oz)

Cranberry sauce (14 oz cans)

Canned fruits (15 oz cans)

15 pound turkeys (can be dropped off at Farmington United Methodist Church on November 17).

Food and money donations can be brought to the church until November 13; if you have questions contact Burdie Gillern or Ellen Storch.

Thanks to everyone who brought in school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief school kits. Our total is 51 kits.

Looking ahead to December –The Christmas Gift Lists will be up on Sunday, November 20 until Sunday, December 11. Gifts will be given to families in need in the Victor and Canandaigua school districts.

The mitten tree will also be up November 20th to December 11. Your donations of scarves, gloves, mittens and hats will go to the VICTIM Resource Center in our area.

Election Day Bake Sale

No matter how the election goes, we want people to have something sweet in their lives! We're having a bake sale for the general election on November 8. Bread sells the best by far so we're looking for loaves of sweet breads (banana, zucchini, etc.) or yeast breads. Talk to Pastor Jon if you are able to provide bread or to help staff the sale.

Service (Cont.)



- Thank you to everyone who helped with the property clean up day on October 15.
- Thank you to everyone who served as worship participants at the 10:30 service.
- Thank you to everyone who mowed the church lawn in October.
- Thank you to Connie Stevenson for caring for all the plants inside the church building.
- Thank you to everyone who adopted one of the church gardens this year.
- Thank you to Jim Spawton for barbequing chicken for the Harvest Festival.
- Thank you to Julie Stewart, Karen Spawton and everyone who helped set up and decorate for the harvest festival.
- Thank you to the youth who helped create our Finding Dory display for Trunk or Treat and thank you to everyone who helped staff it at the event.



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 continues to recover from shoulder surgery.

Jeanette Hare whose health is unstable.

Amy Plouffe who was recently diagnosed with cancer in a couple areas of her body.

Katie Rodgers, friend of the Stevensons, who is a young mother and has various cancers growing in her body.

The family and friends of Louise Pembroke, grandmother of Karen Brownlee, as they mourn her death.

All the people affected by Hurricane Matthew

2017 Stewardship Drive

Look in the mail for your 2017 stewardship materials. You should receive a letter in the next couple days. Please prayerfully consider how you will participate in and support St. John's in the next year. Our congregation is truly our own. It is as strong and capable, or weak and struggling, as we make it!

Nuts and Bolts

November Council Highlights

Kathleen Wagner presented information regarding Family Promise, a program to help support the homeless in Ontario County. The program is looking for host congregations to support these families for 4 weeks a year.

Approved Worship and Music committee to start a new lectionary format for worship in Advent 2016.

Approved Pastor Jon's health insurance plan for 2017.

Discussed fundraising options for Victor/Farmington Food Cupboard, including Garage/Craft Sale on 11/19.

Bills are paid! Thank you!

Fun

November Birthdays

1	Maureen Bettsinger, Robert White
2	Emma Deibler
3	Phyllis Henderson
6	Michael Maynard
10	Linda Thompson
13	Andrew Stark
15	Nancy Shuler, Alexander Morley, Jaden White
17	Cindy Friga, Beth Bright
18	Erin Wilmot
20	Carol Phelps
21	Jeanne Christman
23	Hans Finke
24	Hannah Fields
28	Bruce Stevenson
29	Lindsey Clarkson

Parish Thanksgiving Dinner



The annual Parish Thanksgiving Dinner will be held On Sunday, November 20th starting at 5:00. Please look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the gathering area to see what food items you can bring. This is one of our most popular fellowship events of the year so be sure to bring a empty stomach ready to be filled! We are blessed with some great cooks in this congregation!



October Bible Trivia Answers – Supernatural Fire

1. What two sinful cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone from heaven? Answer: Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24)
2. When the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, what did they follow at night? Answer: A pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21)
3. According to Daniel, this astonishing person had a throne like a fire of flame. Who was he? Answer: The Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9)
4. What did the seraph touch the trembling Isaiah's tongue with? Answer: A live coal from the altar (Isaiah 6:6)

November Bible Trivial Questions – Houses of Worship

1. What gruesome object did the Philistines fasten in the temple of Dagon?
2. Which goddess had a notorious temple at Ephesus?
3. Why did John not see a temple in the new Jerusalem?
4. According to Paul, who is called to be the temple of God?

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <u>All Saints Day</u> 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	2 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 4-8 Piano Lessons	3 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers 7:00 Worship & Music Committee	4 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale 6:15-8:00 Girl Scouts	5
6 <u>All Saints Day</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Choir Rehearsal 2:30 Transforming Congregations Event (At Incarnate Word)	7 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 <u>Election Day</u> All Day – Polling place and bake sale. 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Comm Chorus	9 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 4-8 Piano Lessons	10 <u>Martin Luther's Birthday, 1483</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers	11 <u>Veterans Day</u> 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fun Clubs 3-8 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	12
13 <u>26th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	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 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	17 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00-1:00 Homeschoolers	18 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons 3:30-6:00 Amadeus Chorale	19 Vendor Show
20 <u>Christ the King Sunday</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Cnrgtrnl Mtgn. 5:00 Parish Thanksgiving Dinner	21 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	23 7:00-6:00 YMCA Fund Clubs 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	24 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u>	25	26 8-4 Meditation Group
27 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Choir Rehearsal	28 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00 Holy Yoga 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 6:30-9:30 YMCA Child Care 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Property Committee 7:00 Community Chorus	30 <u>Andrew, Apostle</u> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous			