

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – September 2015

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

Summer is rolling towards its end. Lots of people are working to get everything ready for our fall programs. Sunday school, Bible studies, fellowship events and service opportunities all come back on line. This is the typical rhythm for the year. We do lots of things in the fall, winter and spring; then summer is slow. Undoubtedly this pattern developed because of the school year and people's vacation plans. But isn't this cycle somewhat counter to what we are to be about as Christians? Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) Jesus often taught that we should be ready for his return at every moment and not let the worries and patterns of life distract us. He didn't say we should take the summers off. In St. Paul's letters he often talks

about the time being short and urges his readers onward with all haste.

2000 years of waiting for Christ's return has taken away our sense of urgency. Indeed how can you stay alert and ready for such a long time? Nevertheless, we cannot allow the patterns of the world dictate the patterns of how we live out the faith God inspires in us. We need to keep in the front of our minds that we are children of God and workers in God's kingdom. That work is ongoing and it is changing and dynamic. Certainly we can take breaks. God is not a merciless slave driver! However faith should establish the patterns of our life. Things have gotten backwards when the patterns of life establish the patterns of our faith.

May you find God's inspiration coming to you new and fresh every day. May you feel God's presence driving you onward into the reality of each new day. May you see each new day not as a part of a pattern but as fresh with possibilities. And most especially, may you be able to look back over your life and see many things that God has accomplished in his kingdom through you.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

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Special Congregational Meeting

**September 20th after the
10:30 Worship Service**

See the articles on Page 5 for information about the issues to be decided at the meeting.

Worship

September Worship Assistants

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Greeters & Ushers	Ethan & Lynne Minkel	Sally & Don Mansfield	Nancy & Ivan Shuler	Karen & Jim Spawton
Lector	Jeff Garnrite (8:30) Linn Griffio (10:30)	Suzanne Maynard (8:30) Deb Gregory (10:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30) Nancy Bassett (10:30)	Ellen Storch (8:30) Gary Boisseau (10:30)
Acolyte	Ben Deibler	Nick Stuart	Scott Wilmot	Sebastian Plouffe
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield		Sally Mansfield	
Communion Assistants	Tim & Liz Brown		Jill Ehrlinger & Sam Stepanovich	
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup	Katy Stimmel	Lynne Minkel	Beth Perdan
Counters	Helen Crown & Tom Kurilovitch	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann

Growth

Sunday School Rally Day September 13th

We'll officially open the Sunday school year at the 10:30 worship service. Remember, Sunday school isn't for just kids. We have classes for all ages!

Weekly Bible Studies for the Fall

Wednesdays 8:00am – Men's Breakfast (meets at the Trost's house)

Thursdays 12:00 – Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study

Thursdays 1:00 – Women's Bible Study

Grow Group

Good God Questions – Sometimes questions about God are hard to ask and even harder to answer. Sometime we get stuck at the questions and sometimes we stumble. This short term small group study will use a video and book series from the faculty of Luther Seminary. The time and place for the meetings will be determined by those who sign up. Please see the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area or talk to Pastor Jon for more information.

Hang Around Victor Day – September 12

Our booth this year will again have cookies and lemonade, and we will also add a couple games and activities to play. Please sign up to help staff our booth on the sheet in the Gathering Area.

Service

September is Hunger Awareness Month

You're invited to look at the Hunger Calendar on Facebook and the website www.vffood.org for ideas and ways to promote a better understanding of hunger in our world. Of course, donations to the local Victor Farmington Food Cupboard are always welcome.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is coming up on September 13th. All churches in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are encouraged to do a hands-on service project on that day to benefit an individual or our community. We have a couple projects we could do but we are also looking for more. Please talk to Pastor Jon if you have a project to suggest.



Garden Project

Strawberries are still slowly coming from the patch at church but the yield isn't great this year. The pumpkins in the big garden are doing great. Look for them to arrive at church late in September. 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.)

Community Outreach Committee Report and Recognitions

Maggie's Kids Camp was again a success. Thanks so much to everyone who helped us pull this together in a short period of time. You always come through!

SUMMER OUTREACH PROJECT: Lutheran World Relief Care Kits will be dedicated on Rally Day, September 13th for "God's Work, Our Hands Day."

Nowhere To Go – Thanks to everyone who contributed items for the Help Bags that were distributed as part of this project which is trying to count and assist homeless individuals in the county.

Food Cupboard School Supplies – Your help in gathering school supplies for clients is much appreciated.

Community News

From Serenity House of Victor – In partnership with Rhonda's Auction Center in East Bloomfield people can donate good condition household items, antiques, collectibles, and jewelry. When dropping items off inform the center that the donation is for Serenity House and proceed will be forwarded to the comfort care home.

Drop Off Location: Rhonda's Auction Center
Rear of Peddler's Antiques
6980 Route 5 & 20, East

Bloomfield
Drop Off Times: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm;
Monday thru Saturday
Noon – 4:00 pm, Sunday

Auction: Every other Saturday
6:00 pm with preview at 4:30

Thank Yous

Thank you to Bettina Kalish, Nancy Shuler, Burdie Gillern, and John Thompson for helping with our day at the Maggie's Kids camp. Thank you also to everyone who donated money or materials for the camp. Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the lawn in August.

Thank you to Ellen Storch and Pat Quist for their work in the garden project, especially tending the strawberries. Thank you to everyone who served on the two special task forces we had this summer: the bell tower, and the sexton position.



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.

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

Linda Ellis who has metastases on her spine and hip.

Pat Hortop who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Linda Flood who is recovering from spinal surgery.

Judy VanDeVelde who is recovering from a joint replacement.

Jim Lethbridge whose health has declined recently.

Judy Coyle who is recovering from eye surgery and awaiting a follow-up surgery.

Ellen Vaughn, friend of Ruth Edmunds who is having surgery for ovarian cancer.

Jeanne Kurilovitch, Tom Kurilovitch's mother, who is recovering from having her gall bladder removed.



	Income	Expenses	Difference
Year to Date	119,929.23		
		124,253.95	(4,324.12)

Bills not paid: We owe Upstate NY Synod 4 months of contributions for a total of \$3,000. We also owe ourselves (the Capital Fund) \$5,375.00 from February when we borrowed to pay bills due to snow plowing and other high winter expenses.

Pay It Forward Capital Campaign:

Pledges of \$66,351

Received as of 7/31 \$37,444 (56%)

Service (Cont.)

Stewardship and Finance Committee

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"

Fun

September Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Morgan Sackett |
| 2 | Amy Albert, Kelly Wilmot |
| 4 | Adam Storch |
| 5 | Kevin Maynard, Ron Pape |
| 6 | Gary Boisseau |
| 7 | Austin Hoefen, Mitchell Szydlowski |
| 8 | David Kravetz |
| 13 | Sue Green, Kevin Sackett |
| 14 | Bob Kerr, Ben Testa, Don Curtis |
| 15 | John Hoefen, Katya Kurilovitch |
| 17 | Stan Clarkson, Joseph Krug, Joan Weicht |
| 18 | Roger Pennypacker, Whitney Stevenson |
| 19 | Edward Bremer |
| 20 | Sara Pike |
| 21 | Tom Pike, Sam C. DeMuzio |
| 22 | Robbie Keefe, Curt Stromstad |
| 24 | Hannah Brownlee |
| 28 | John DeLeon |
| 29 | Trevor Krug, Ian Christman |
| 30 | Andrew Bell |



July/August Bible Trivia Questions – The Very Devil

1. What disciple was told by Jesus that Satan wanted to sift like wheat? Answer: Peter (Luke 22:31)
2. What king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? Answer: Saul (1 Samuel 16:14-23)
3. What woman had Jesus driven seven demons out of? Answer: Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2)
4. In Revelation, for what reason do the demons perform miracles? Answer: To bring the nations to war (Revelation 16:13-14)

August Bible Trivia Questions

1. According to Ephesians what is the purpose of our lives?
2. What image does Paul use to describe a sin that he cannot overcome? Hint: He prayed three times to have it removed but God said no.
3. What three things/forces are eternal?
4. According to Paul our citizenship is where?

Nuts and Bolts

August Council Meeting Highlights

1. Passed a Motion to uphold going forward the 7th Grade level for students entering the Confirmation Class
2. Reviewed a proposal to add the position of Sexton (see specific note in Newsletter)
3. Reviewed Plans of Fellowship Committee for a more interactive experience with Victor residents on 'Hang Around Victor Day', September 12th
4. Discussed the possibility, and feasibility of using a Payment Plan through a lender to purchase new lawn mowing/snow plowing equipment(again see specific note in newsletter)
5. Discussed the need for Church Council to do a more studious job at Budgeting for 2016, as we under-budgeted several major accounts for 2015(Synod contributions, Workers comp insurance, Gas..Property related expenses

For the Special Congregational Meeting on September 20th

Lawn Mowing Situation/Sexton Proposal

The Ferris mower that we have been using to mow the church property is no longer operational. The engine died, and would cost over \$3000 to replace. The mower is approximately twenty years old, so the Property Committee and Church Council feel as though it is not prudent to incur the expense to replace the engine when something else could go wrong with the mower.

For the remainder of the 2015 mowing season, we intend to use the small riding mower to do the areas immediately adjacent to the church and nearest to the road. The tractor that is traditionally used for the garden project has been generously relocated from the Wymans to church to mow some of the bigger areas (behind the shed and the hillside near the outdoor sanctuary). The tractor is only meant to serve as a stopgap measure to get us through the current year because its primary purpose is for mowing brush, not grass.

We are pursuing the idea of purchasing a piece of equipment that could mow the grass and plow snow. We have obtained multiple quotes from vendors for new and used tractors, with financing options available over the course of several years.

One other component that is under consideration is the possibility of hiring a Sexton to carry out multiple duties, including lawn care, snow removal, and cleaning inside the church.

This proposal is being undertaken to bring these costs under our control, not subjected again to those of a 3rd party contractor. As you may know, we spent significantly on snow removal costs due to last year's frigid winter. If we endure another harsh, wintry season, we do not want to pay per visit for snow plowing & salting services.

There was never a good time for the mower's engine to fail, but this is prompting us to take action and assess the best long-term solution for financial soundness. We intend to propose a recommendation at a special congregational meeting following the late worship service on Sunday, September 20. We look forward to hearing your thoughts, comments, and suggestions.

Bell Tower Update

Earlier this summer, we held a congregational meeting to share information regarding the possibility of erecting

a bell tower here at St. John's. The result was to have Church Council complete its due diligence in pursuing a 3-bell tower, including consideration of the purchase of bells. The Church Council stood up a sub-committee to perform due diligence to cover each aspect of this project. Below are the findings.

Bell Tower Cost

Bell Tower Fabrication & Erection	\$12,500
Undefined Costs + 10% Contingency (includes engineering cost, building permits, price increases)	\$5,900
<u>Electrical Components Mechanical Room to Tower</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
<i>Tower Ready to Accept Bell</i>	<i>\$20,900</i>

Electrical Components Installed by Electrical Contractor
\$4,000 (installed with first bell)

Bell Costs

Large	37" (990 pounds)	\$22,290
Medium	29" (490 pounds)	\$11,360
Small	24" (255 pounds)	\$7,610

Finance

We have approximately \$7,000 in the Memorial Fund, primarily donated in memory of Jill Pow and Scott Swigart, that prompted consideration for this project. A few families have offered to cover the remainder of fabrication and erection costs (\$5,500). An additional \$5,000 has been donated. Another significant pledge has been promised if the project moves forward. The daily sponsorship of bells would also account for \$9,000, which would go toward the purchase of the first bell, if approved.

Additional Considerations

- There is no additional insurance premium associated with the erection of a bell tower.
- The tower falls within the allowable height restrictions of the town of Victor (under 40 feet).
- Churches are considered exempt, as far as noise ordinances are concerned.
- We may investigate the possibility of an annual inspection price because Verdin Bell Company has several other customers in the area.

Other Use of Memorial Fund Money

The due diligence sub-committee discussed other ways to use the memorial fund including a waterfall, scholarship, and steeple with one bell. These ideas did not stimulate the same interest as the bell tower project.

Next Steps

We will hold a follow-up congregational meeting on Sunday, September 20, after the late worship service. The intent is to have a motion prepared for the congregation to vote whether to proceed or not with this project.

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 Weight Watchers	2 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	3 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Women's Bible Study	4 3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	5
6 <u>15th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	7 Labor Day	8 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	9 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	10 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scouts	11 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 5:30 Wedding 3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	12 Hang Around Victor Day
13 <u>16th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Rally Day 10:30 Worship God's Work, Our Hands Day	14 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 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 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scouts	18 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	19
20 <u>17th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Congregational Meeting	21 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 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 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Women's Bible Study	25 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3:15-8:15 Cello Lessons	26
27 <u>18th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	28 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	30 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous			