

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – September 2019

## Growth

### Pastor's Paragraphs

I'm currently reading the book *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. The title is inspired by the Lewis and Clark expedition, which had to make a dramatic change in their plans when they discovered the Rocky Mountains. They had hoped that once they crossed the continental divide at the headwaters of the Missouri River they'd have a downhill descent to the Pacific Ocean – something they'd be able to travel by canoe. The Rockies were a rude awakening! They had to rethink things and make dramatic changes if they were to complete their mission of reaching the Pacific. The book suggests that a similar rethinking is needed from church leaders if the church is to flourish (or maybe survive) in this century.

I've encountered a number of books and programs like this. Interestingly they have all been created by highly educated white men. And they all suggest that if pastors would develop the precisely right mix of leadership skills the church will flourish.

And it is my opinion that they are all wrong!

I criticize all of them for missing the key issue. The key issue is the "log in our eyes" that Jesus talks about. That log is the issue that Jesus talked about more than anything else – money.

I've written this a number of times before, so it will not be news to you. The biggest challenge to faith in America today is money. The biggest reason why the church is declining so steeply is money. The reason the entire social fabric that has endured for generations is unraveling is because of money. We have enough money that we can afford to live as individuals; not needing to share unless we want to. We can buy our lifestyles. We regularly buy comforts and conveniences unheard of just several decades ago. And even though we consider ourselves super busy, the busyness is of life is artificial, not driven by necessity. People spend little of their time meeting the necessities of life: hauling

water, growing and processing food, washing clothes by hand, etc.

The problem with money is that it makes people feel like they have power, like they are in control, like they are able to find fulfillment within their own abilities.

Everyone wants that.

I go back to the story of Adam and Eve. Their "sin" is not disobedience. Their sin is that they turned away from God, feeling they could do better on their own. They feared God had left them limited (or incomplete). They thought they could fix that by their own power. Perhaps the Bible is the first written record of "self-help" gone wrong! Money is the forbidden fruit of our day. It gives us the illusion of power and self-determination. As long as our society has as much money available as it does people will look to themselves for fulfillment rather than God.

What does the church need? Good leaders are important, yes. But as long as people can fool themselves into thinking they can make it apart from God they will continue to fool themselves. We are all wise when we can recognize the desires of Adam and Eve also are within ourselves. When we do that we can see the tendencies and desires that drive us. Seeing that is the first step in turning to God with honesty of heart. God and God alone can bring us fulness of life. That is a step on the path to true wholeness. That is a path we can guide others to travel too.

May you feel God's presence in your life and know the wholeness, security, and love only God can provide. Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

### Sunday School Rally Day

We'll officially open the Sunday school year at the 10:30 worship service on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Remember, Sunday school isn't just for kids. There are classes for all ages!

# Worship

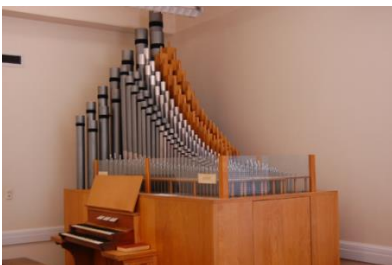
## September Worship Assistants

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Greeters & Ushers	Tom & Carol Urbanic	Laura & Rob Stroup	John & Gay Card	Mike & Cassie Ross	Jim & Karen Spawton
Lector	Ellen Storch (8:30)	Judy VanDeVelde (8:30)	Mary Zuege (8:30)	Suzy Maynard (8:30)	Kevin Maynard (8:30)
Acolyte	Oliva DeLeon	Joe Wyman	Tierney White	Morgan Sackett	Rudy Stroup
Altar Care	Sally Manfield		Sally Manfield		Sally Manfield
Communion Assistants	Rob Stroup & Gary Boisseau		Sara Demuzio & Tricia Kolczynski		Ivan & Nancy Shuler
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde	Kristy Bullwinkle	Laura Stroup	Bill & Katy Stimmel	Beth Perdan
Counters	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Beth Perdan & Bettina Kalish	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	Tom Kurilovitch & Helen Crown	John & Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour		I			



### September Worship Texts

9/1 Luke 11:1-13, 18:1-14  
 9/8 Luke 11:14-32  
 9/15 Luke 11:33-54  
 9/22 Luke 12:1-12  
 9/29 Luke 12:13-59



### Organ Rededication

Thank you for patiently waiting as the organ from Trinity Lutheran Church in East Rochester has been reassembled. We attempted to set a rededication date a

couple times but missed each date. At this point we do not have a date set. Once the organ is functional again we'll be in contact with Caroline Robinson, the organist at St. Paul's Lutheran in Pittsford, who has agreed to play it for the dedication. We are on track to do it this fall, but we have to work with Miss Robinson's schedule too.

## Nuts and Bolts

### Lawn Mowing

St. John's needs volunteers for lawn mowing. We have beautiful property and need to take care of it. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for a week's commitment. You can grab a partner and split the work or sign up to do it all yourself whichever you prefer. Training on our equipment is available; just contact Tom Urbanic, Chair of the Property Committee to set it up or contact Tom with any questions.

### Directory Update

Please update your directory with this new information for Knute Halvorson. He has moved to Atria, Penfield: 2006 Five Mile Line Rd. Penfield, NY 14526 585 385-9486

# Service



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

## God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is coming up on September 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 will again harvest the potatoes from our garden at the Ross's on this day. We expect to have just under a ton of potatoes this year! Harvesting will begin at 1:00. All of the potatoes will be sent to the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area if you are able to participate.



-The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester. Also the Rev. Eric and the Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo in Malaysia.

-Amy Plouffe, who is home and stable but continuing cancer treatments.

-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.

-Linda Roy, sister of Helen Crown, who recently began hospice care.

## Community Outreach Committee

**MAGGIE'S KIDS** – Dear St. John's Lutheran Congregation,

During the week of July 8-12 your church helped to sponsor Maggie's Kids camp. A camp made up of around 100 children from the inner city of Rochester. Miss Maggie (Maggie D. Harris) operates Community Lutheran Ministry on Joseph Avenue in the city. Her year-round ministry is solely focused on the children of the 14621 zip code, currently one of the most impoverished and crime-ridden areas of our city. Throughout the Victor week the children experienced Bible study, arts and crafts, games, and music that went along with our "Love Thyself" theme. They also had the opportunity to go to some local parks and spend some time in the fresh air and green grass.

Your generous donation breakfast, lunch and snacks for the kids on Monday was wonderful. They always love the food you serve! Thank you also for opening up your facilities to us. We really appreciate all of the love and dedication you have shown to "Maggie's Kids" camp throughout the years! Next year camp is July 6-10, 2020! God Bless you and thank you again!

Dottie Augustine,  
Victor Week Camp Director

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** – We had a whole table of donated items for the distribution for the Victor Farmington end of summer celebration. Thank you to everyone who donated.

## Garden Project Update

The potatoes are doing great and will be ready for harvest on September 8<sup>th</sup> for our God's Work Our Hands project. The sweet corn has done very well and is being harvested now. To date we have delivered 1270 pounds to the food cupboard. The pumpkins are coming along well. For some reason the apple trees on the church property did not produce. They were full of blossoms in the spring but few apples have grown. Perhaps we're having pollination problems.



-Thank you to everyone who helped to mow the lawn in July and August.

-Thank you to Les Stiles for working on soldering the organ's wires.

-Thank you to Jim Spawton for testing organ components and ordering replacements.

-Thank you to the church council members who helped to lead worship on August 4 when Pastor Jon was at the Dansville/Cohocton parish.

-Thank you to Dave Bullwinkle and Gary Wood for leading worship on August 18 when Pastor Jon was on vacation.

-Thank you to the worship band for providing music while Heidi was on vacation.

-Thank you to the Stevensons for all their work on the church landscaping over the summer months.

-Thank you to everyone who helped pick corn from the garden project.

-Thank you to Beth Schroeder and Beth Perdan for organizing the week we hosted for Family Promise. And also thank you to everyone who served that week.

-Thank you to Beth Schroeder for prepping our racing bed for the Family Promise Bed Race.

## Service (Cont.)



### Melt Down the Mortgage

Our Melt Down the Mortgage campaign has begun! Please pick up an envelope on the usher's stand to make your donation towards lowering the principle on the mortgage. Track our progress on the poster at church and let's see how big we can make the puddles of the melting snowman! Talk to Beth Schroeder, Tim Brown or Pastor Jon if you have any questions.



### Bed Race Winners!

Congratulations to our bed race team – the Speed Demons for winning the Lead Foot Division of this year's Family Promise Bed Race. They were the only bed in their division but they also won the race they were in, and they were less than a second slower than the fastest beds of the day! The event raised over \$27,000 for Family Promise. Thanks to everyone who helped!

## Fun

### Upstate NY Synod Women of the ELCA 2019 Convention

**“And God said . . . Walk a faithful Journey”**  
**October 4 -6, Notre Dame Retreat House,**  
**Canandaigua**

A flyer is posted in the Gathering Area with contact information, workshops, costs, etc. or check with Linda Flood.



### July/August Bible Trivia Answers

1. From where was the man for whom Jesus cast out a legion of demons? Answer: Gerasene (Luke 8:26)
2. Who does Jesus say his mother and brothers are? Answer: "...those who heard the word of God and do it." (Luke 8:21)
3. How many loaves and fish did Jesus have when he fed the crowd of 5000? Answer: 5 loaves, 2 fish (Luke 9:13)
4. What was Jesus doing on the boat before the windstorm came up and he calmed it? Answer: Sleeping (Luke 8:23)

### September Bible Trivia Questions

1. Why does Jesus teach the disciples the Lord's Prayer?
2. In the parable of the Rich Fool what does he do with his old barns in order to store more crops?
3. Jesus said Solomon was not clothed with as much glory as what kind of flower?
4. Complete this sentence of Jesus from Luke's gospel, "Where your treasure is..."



# SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <u>12th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>2</b> <u>Labor Day</u>	<b>3</b> 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>4</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>5</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <u>13th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School Rally Day 10:30 Worship 1:00 – God's Work, Our Hands Potato Harvest	<b>9</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>11</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>12</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>14</b> <u>Holy Cross Day</u>
<b>15</b> <u>14th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>16</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>18</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>19</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>21</b> Monarch Homeschool Fundraiser
<b>22</b> <u>15th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>23</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 4-8:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	<b>25</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 8:30 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>26</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 1:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 3-8 Cello Lesson	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <u>Michael and All Angels</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Sunday Noisy Offering at both services	<b>30</b> 6:30-9:00 YMCA Child Care 9:00 Holy Yoga 3:00-8:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts					



# **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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The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

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[www.stjohnsvictor.com](http://www.stjohnsvictor.com)

*Address Service Requested*

### **September Newsletter**

September 8 – Sunday School Rally Day