

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – April 2025

## Pastor's Paragraphs

Christ in culture or Christ against culture? This is a foundational question underneath all our worship services. To what extent do we make use of culture for the proclamation of the gospel? And to what extent do we use the gospel to critique culture?

The answer is ever shifting. If we used only 9<sup>th</sup> century Gregorian Chant in our worship services the services would not inspire us. They would be so foreign to our lives that they'd convey little meaning. At the other extreme, what would our services be like if we used a lot of Taylor Swift songs? Again, the music would convey little theology to us!

Several generations ago the church and American culture shared many overlaps. The rhetoric, music, and forms of the culture and of Christianity were synchronous. To speak of one was to speak of the other. Many would like to see this return. That is understandable. However, it is also prone to abuse. The church can easily endorse things of culture that are wrong without thinking through them theologically.

Culture made a serious shift after World War 2. Our church library has a set of biblical commentaries from that time. It's the Interpreter's Bible Commentary. Though many people considered the years after World War 2 to be a boom time for the church in America, that commentary gives warnings. It points out that the widespread prosperity of the nation was counter to Christ's teachings. Nevertheless, as long as church attendance grew and church budgets remained strong, people thought God was behind the boom. Warnings of the culture's problems were largely ignored.

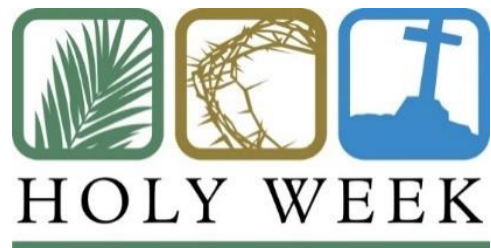
I believe it is time for the church to take an increasing stance against culture. (Do not think I am making a political statement in that. I am not.) We in America today consume to a gluttonous extent: food, energy, entertainment, technology, building materials, etc. Take a step back and realize how shocking it is! Even worse, our culture has invented a morality to justify it all. We tell ourselves it is all deserved, good, and sustainable. In the midst of it all people have lost sight of who they are, what their purpose is, and where their lives are going. The morality of our society says that if you don't feel fulfilled, just consume more. Or if something isn't fulfilling, search for something else. The result is a society of shallow people wandering around lost.

While the forms and expressions of our faith are flexible, the gospel of Jesus is solid and unchanging. This is where we root our lives, and it is where those who are wandering through life can also root their lives. Sharing that truth is the task of evangelism today.

That impacts weekly worship. Our worship services have been developed with an eye toward attracting Christians who move into the area. They are designed to move along at an energetic pace and be easy to follow. There's nothing wrong with that, but in so doing they lean heavily into culture. They don't feel all that different than the rest of life.

We won't be making any drastic changes in worship any time soon, but I believe it is time for worship to trend away from culture and feel deliberately different. Hymn choices may change. Aspects of old liturgies will become more frequent. And while we will always be welcoming, we won't focus as much on making worship a polished formal production that is designed to impress. None of these are major changes, but they do create worship that feels distinctly different than the rest of life. We are saying no to culture, because culture cannot be counted on to convey forms of faithful life.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon



### Holy Week Schedule at a Glance

April 13 – Palm Sunday, procession with palms at 10:30,  
Easter egg hunt  
April 17 – Maundy Thursday, covered dish meal with  
Holy Communion, 6pm  
April 18 – Good Friday, 7:00 Worship  
April 20 – Easter  
6:00 Sunrise service of Holy Communion  
9:00 Pancake Breakfast  
10:30 Holy Communion

## April Worship Assistants

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Greeters & Ushers	Janice Lockwood	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Rob Stroup	Bruce & Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau	Gary Boisseau	Gary Boisseau	
Communion Assistants	Sally Mansfield	Gary Boisseau	Rob Stroup	
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour				



### Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

We continue reading in Luke’s gospel for April. The first Sunday we’ll still be following Jesus’ public ministry in the countryside. But then for Palm Sunday and into Easter we’ll jump to Jesus being in Jerusalem. In May we’ll return to the chapters we skipped.

- 4/6 Luke 8:22-56
- 4/13 Luke 19:28-48 (Palm Sunday)
- 4/17 Luke 22:1-46 (Maundy Thursday)
- 4/18 Luke 22:47-23:55 (Good Friday)
- 4/20 Luke 24:1-12 (Easter)
- 4/27 Luke 24:13-35



### Worship In-person and Zoom

10:30 is in-person worship in the sanctuary and also by Zoom. The Zoom link for 10:30 is emailed weekly. If you cannot connect to the 10:30 service with a computer you can still hear and participate in the service with any phone.

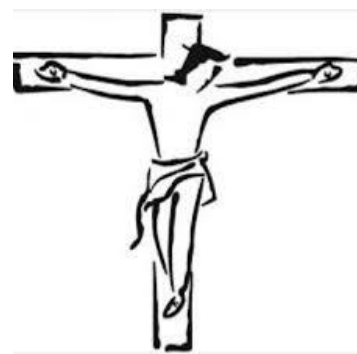
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85898911838?pwd=Ho0hGtKqSjAnRpugabpkQTuY73SbyK.1>

Meeting ID: 858 9891 1838

Passcode: 020293

By phone:

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



April 18, 7pm  
Good Friday

### Day of Victory Over Sin

Join us for a special Good Friday service. We will read from Luke’s gospel what happens to Jesus on Good Friday. This service will be done by candlelight in darkness.



### Pancake Breakfast

End Lent the same way it began, or a very similar way. Indulge in our annual Easter pancake breakfast! 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.



Thank you 

### 8:30 Breakfast Church during Lent

Our 8:30 worship service will return to the “breakfast church” model during the season of Lent. Tables will be set up in the fellowship hall. Worship will begin with a hymn and a prayer. Then worshippers will serve themselves whatever delicious breakfast foods have been prepared for that morning. As they eat the scriptures will be read and the service continues from there.

-Thank you to Mary Zuege for updating the Family Promise bulletin board and keeping us up to date on Family Promise.

-Thank you to Gary Boisseau and Mary Zuege for making French Toast for the Fat Tuesday supper.

-Thank you to Julie and Nick Stuart for setting up the Fat Tuesday supper.

-Thank you to everyone who helped to clear snow in February.

-Thank you to Jim Spawton for leading worship when Pastor Jon was away on March 2.

### Mid-Week Lenten Series

Wednesdays 6:00 Soup and Bread Dinner,  
6:30 Worship



-David Storch as he lives in a memory care facility.

- Alex Clark, friend of the Shulers. He is a 38 year old father who was recently diagnosed with stomach and intestinal cancer.

-Marilyn Bair who is currently home and is improving slightly in health.

This year’s mid-week Lenten worship will be “escape rooms” based on Bible stories. Each week a different Bible story will be used and combined with puzzles and ciphers that help to improve our knowledge of it.

### March Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Major items on the agenda were:



Updates on projects from the several committees, especially:

Property – repairs to the heating system

Worship – Lent and Easter plans; also having a special service late this year to celebrate the organ’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (The organ was 45 years old when we installed it.)

### Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is an annual tradition in our congregation’s Lenten journey. This year it’s going to be known nationwide because it’s being featured in *Living Lutheran*. Our own Nick Stuart is writing an article about it.

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. This Lent, once again give up your most worthless stuff so that God can turn it into heat and light!



What has Family Promise of Ontario County been up to in 2024??

Below is a breakdown of the impact that Family Promise of Ontario County made in 2024 by program:

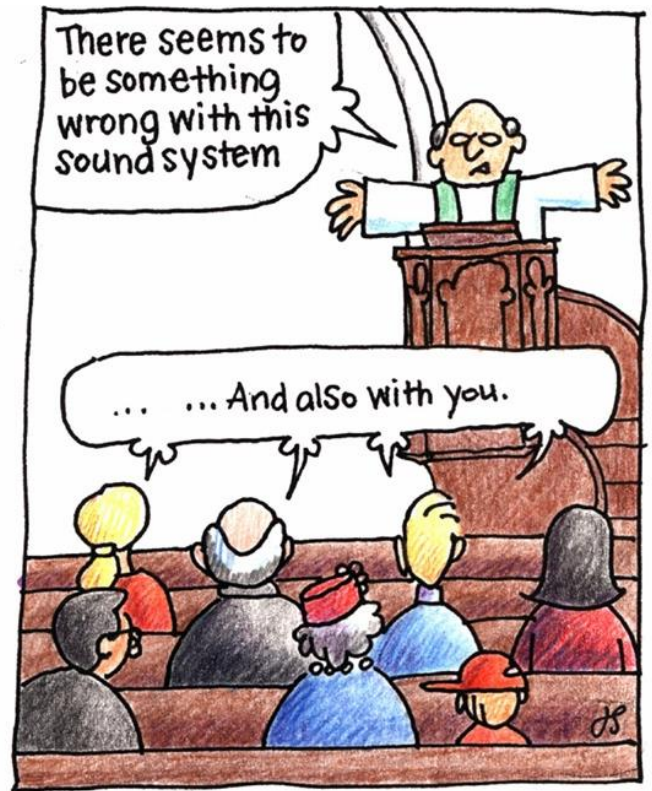
- **EMERGENCY SHELTER:** We provided emergency shelter and case management for a total of 8 families with 18 children in the 4 apartments in Canandaigua and Geneva.
- **EVICION PREVENTION:** We were able to prevent 17 families with 33 children from entering a homeless situation through our eviction prevention program.
- **SHELTER DIVERSION:** We were able to help 7 families move from a homeless situation (couch surfing, living in motels, cars, etc.) to a place of their own.
- **STABILIZATION:** Once a family graduates from our shelter program we provide ongoing assistance and support to help minimize the chance of them falling back into a homeless situation. In 2024 we provided assistance for a total of 17 families with 52 children.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** From outreach to walk-ins we assisted 134 families and individuals with a variety of support as needed.

What's coming up this Spring?  
Family Promise Bowling Tournament!!!!

April 5<sup>th</sup> 4 – 7  
Roseland Bowl in Canandaigua  
Go to <https://givebutter.com/PqXKBw>  
To sign up as an individual or a team of 5

(can we find a team of 5?)

Please check the good old bulletin board for more details.



### March Bible Trivia Answers

1. What miracle does Jesus perform in the town of Nain?  
Answer: Raises a widow's son. (Luke 7:11)
2. In every gospel there is a story of a woman anointing Jesus. What part of him does she anoint in Luke's gospel?  
Answer: His feet. (Luke 7:38)
3. In the parable of the sower what happens to the seed that falls on the path?  
Answer: The devil snatches it away. (Luke 8:12)
4. Where does Jesus say people put a lamp that is lit?  
Answer: On a lampstand. (Luke 8:16)

### April Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the gospel readings chosen for worship.

1. What holiday season was it that caused Jesus to go to Jerusalem with his disciples?
2. On what hill/mount did Jesus go to pray after his last supper with the disciples?
3. What disciple handed Jesus over to the authorities?
4. Two of the women who went to the tomb on Easter had the same first name. What was it?

# April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>2</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>3</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>4</b>  3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <u>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 1:00-4:00 Church Council Retreat	<b>7</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>9</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>10</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>11</b>  3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <u>Palm Sunday</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Easter Egg Hunt	<b>14</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations  3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>15</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>16</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>17</b> <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons  6:00 Meal and Holy Communion	<b>18</b> <u>Good Friday</u>  3-8 Cello Lessons  7:00 Worship	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <u>Easter</u> 6:00 Sunrise Holy Communion 9:00 Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Holy Communion	<b>21</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus 7:00 Property Committee	<b>23</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>24</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool  10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>25</b> <u>St. Mark, Evangelist</u>  3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>28</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study  3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>30</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast  3-7 Violin Lessons  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous			



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*We are a community of faith  
committed to living and sharing the love of God.*

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*Address Service Requested*

### **April Newsletter**

13 Easter Egg Hung

17 Maundy Thursday Worship

18 Good Friday Worship

20 Sunrise Service, Pancake Breakfast