

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – February 2025

Pastor's Paragraphs

Capitalism, Neo-Liberalism, Communism, Socialism. These are all names of economic models. People throw these words around a lot but I doubt many fully know what they mean. Interestingly, the Bible can be interpreted such that it would appear to give an endorsement to each of them. However, I believe any such endorsement is a stretch. While the Bible says a lot about money, it does not promote any of the current day economic systems.

In the Old Testament the Bible does actually promote a specific economic system. In the midst of political shifts in our nation (and the endless circular arguments that go with them) let's look at the Bible's system. Before we get to it, we should note that there is no historical record of it ever actually being implemented. Also, it is based on agriculture and subsistence farming with very little immigration. Therefore, I don't believe it could work in the globalized economy of today. But it does give biblical principles for economics.

The Bible's economic system is based on the idea of the Year of Jubilee. It is described in Leviticus 25. Every 50th year all land was returned to its ancestral owners, and all slaves were freed. (Remember that all families had originally had land assigned to them.) While houses in cities could be bought or sold (in perpetuity), land could not. Acquiring land from someone else was possible only through a long-term lease. The lease would continue up until the next Year of Jubilee. If the Year of Jubilee was many years away the amount paid for the lease would be higher than if the Year of Jubilee was near.

In a subsistence farming economy this meant that no family was ever perpetually locked out of having the ability to provide for themselves. Also, land wealth could not amass permanently in the hands of a few. And yet, hard-working constructive farmers could get ahead through the long-term leases. At the Year of Jubilee a lease could be renewed.

There were also laws about harvesting grain and fruit. According to Leviticus 23:22 land owners/leasees were not to harvest to the edge of their fields or vineyards. They were also not to glean too thoroughly. The edges of fields and the remnants of crops were to be left for the poor and immigrants. Thus, able bodied poor people were able to provide for their basic needs; although it

was very hard work. And even if your family was poor and destitute, you would only be so until the next Year of Jubilee. Then your ancestral land returned to you. Thus, children of wasteful parents were not forever at a loss because of their parents' poor management.

You don't have to think about this economic system too hard to find that it has its problems. I don't say it is perfect. The "devil is in the details" as they say. However, the principles behind it are what I want to raise. Wealth could indeed be acquired by those who were conscientious and who worked hard. However, it could never amass too greatly in the hands of a few. And there was provision for the needs of the poor without opening the door for laziness and exploitation.

Again, I know full well it could not work with the high population and industrialization of the world today, but it does represent noteworthy biblical principles that we (living in a democracy) should look for in our economic legislation. There are never easy fixes to economic problems. Economies always require work and adjustment. But the Bible shows that it is the will of God that all people should work to contribute value to their society, and also that they are treated as having value by their society.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Weather Cancellations

If we need to cancel a worship service or event due to weather we will post it on the church's Facebook page and send it to the email list. If it is a Sunday morning worship service we will probably hold it online. Please contact Pastor Jon if you have any cancellation questions.

February Worship Assistants

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Greeters & Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Linda Thompson		Linda Thompson	
Communion Assistants	Mary Zuege		Greg Zuege	
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel	Linda Flood & Sue Kaufmann	Mary and Greg Zuege	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour				



Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

We continue reading from Luke's gospel in February. We see the early days of Jesus' public ministry develop and learn about his closest followers. We also see Jesus' miraculous powers begin to be used to help people.

Here's what is planned for February:

February 2 – Luke 4:14-44

February 9 – Luke 5:1-11

February 16 – Luk3 5:12-26

February 23 – Luke 5:27-6:16



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)

February 9 Sunday School Children Lead 10:30 Worship

On February 9 our Bible text for worship will be the miraculous huge catch of fish as told in Luke 5:1-11. The Sunday school children will lead the 10:30 service. We'll see just how remarkable that catch of fish is, and see how strange it is that the disciples walk away from it and leave it on the shore; which someone else surely benefited from.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Is this year the Buffalo Bills will finally win a Super Bowl? It is certainly possible! We'll know soon enough. The fate of the Bills is not in our hands though. What is in our hands is the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year is Souper Bowl XXXV. Along with churches across the nation we will raise funds to tackle hunger. On Sunday February 9th a soup pot will be in the back of the sanctuary to collect money. Please consider donating generously. All money raised will be donated to World Hunger.

*Thank
you*

- Thank you to everyone who helped with plow snow from the church parking lot in January.
- Thank you to everyone who provided food for Gary Wood's funeral.
- Thank you to the committee chairs for their leadership in 2024.
- Thank you to the Young family for folding and preparing the bulletins in 2024.
- Thank you to Wendy Sackett and Jen White for serving terms on church council.
- Thank you to Wendy Sackett for being the church council secretary these last several years.
- Thank you to Wayne Young for creating the 2025 church budget proposal.
- Thank you to the Sunday school children for creating the fruit cake in worship on December 22.



Community Outreach Committee

A Thank You from Victor Central School for our donations to the Christmas giving tree:

On behalf of us at the Victor Holiday Giving Tree, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous contribution to our Giving Tree. Your support, and the support of the church, helped make the holiday season brighter for families in need, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our cause.

With your donation, we are able to provide gift cards for 110 families and 263 students, ensuring that families can experience the warmth and joy of the season. Your generosity makes a real difference, and we are honored to have you as a partner in our mission.

It is because of kind-hearted individuals like you that we are able to bring comfort, hope, and happiness to those who need it most. Your contribution not only provides for immediate needs but also fosters a sense of community and care that will last well beyond the holidays.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. We wish you and your loved ones and joyful and peaceful holiday season.

With regards,

Holiday Giving Coordinators:

Katherine Kavanaugh, Holly Knox, Erin Lettman,
Maren Miller



Thrivent Night at the Strong National Museum of Play

Thrivent Members:

As a part of a Thrivent Member Network, you're among a group of local Christians who come together to learn, support one another, and make a real impact in our communities.

Sunday, February 16
3:45 to 5:30 Member Pre-Event
-dinner and a Thrivent update

5:30-8 Open Play
Members, friends and family can enjoy all the museum has to offer. Non-members are welcome. Registration and parking are free.

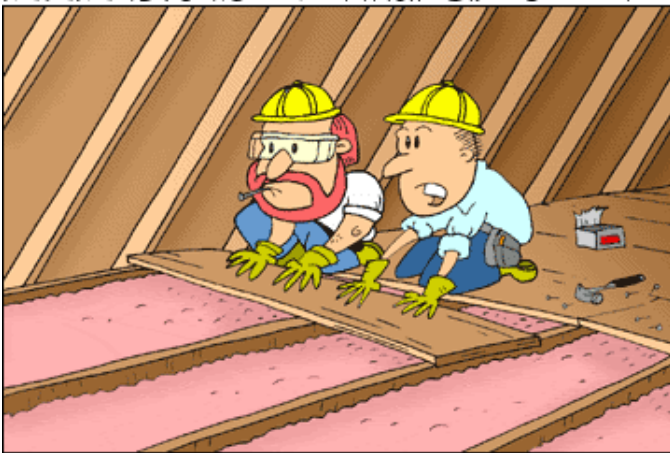
Registration required at:
<https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/northeast/events>

Prayer Request

- 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.



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Thanks to Mikel Rice 02-12-2001

THIS ISN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN THEY ASKED IF I ENJOYED WORKING ON CHURCH BOARDS

January Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on January 13. Major items on the agenda were:

- Creating of a budget proposal for 2025.
- Updates on fellowship and community outreach activities.
- Update on the stewardship drive and church finances.
- Planning the 2025 annual congregational meeting.

Fellowship Suggestions

Do you wish that we had more opportunities to socialize with each other? Please send me your suggestions, whatever they may be.

Not everyone will be able (or want) to do everything, but we might all enjoy something.

Please send your wild and crazy ideas to: dushenkom@yahoo.com



January Bible Trivia Answers

1. How old was Jesus when his parents accidentally left him behind in the temple? Answer: 12 (Luke 3:42)
2. John the Baptist said he was unworthy to untie what of the coming Messiah? Answer: his sandals (Luke 3:16)
3. What high place did the devil take Jesus and tempt him to throw himself down? Answer: the temple (Luke 4:9)
4. What does the devil tempt Jesus to turn into a loaf of bread? Answer: a stone (Luke 4:3)

February Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. Name two of the four disciples Jesus called when they were fishing along the Sea of Galilee (also called the Lake of Gennesaret)
2. What tax collector made a great feast for Jesus after Jesus called him to be a disciple?
3. When Jesus was preaching in a house to a crowd what did the friends of a paralyzed man do to get him to Jesus?
4. What unlawful thing does Jesus say King David did when David and his companions were hungry?

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>Presentation of Our Lord</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	3 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Community Chorus	5 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	6 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	7 3-8 Cello Lessons	8
9 <u>5th Sunday after Epiphany Souper Bowl of Caring</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	10 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	13 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	14 3-8 Cello Lessons	15
16 <u>6th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 3:45-8 Thrivent Night at Strong Museum	17 <u>President's Day</u>	18 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	19 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	20 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	21 3-8 Cello Lessons	22
23 <u>7th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	24 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	26 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	27 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	28 3-8 Cello Lessons	



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.*

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Address Service Requested

February Newsletter

9 Souper Bowl of Caring

16 Thrivent Night at Strong