

# On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – July/August 2024

## Pastor's Paragraphs

Have you ever been in a quandary and decided to open the Bible to a random place, put down your finger, and see what it says? You've probably gotten some absurd answers! There are many jokes about people who do just that. Our church constitution says that the Bible is God's inspired word and that it is the congregation's "authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life." (Section C2.03) Those are heady words. It is easy to think of the Bible as an intellectual treatise outlining Christian beliefs and morals. Indeed, the Bible does include that. But as we have been looking at poetry in the Old Testament for a summer worship series, we realize there is a lot more.

Poetry is not my thing. I'd rather study Paul's theology in his letters or the complex stories about Jesus in the gospels. Studying those things can give definite answers. Poetry does not. And ancient poetry can be particularly hard to understand. Nevertheless, if we neglect it totally it is to our detriment. So it is to the Bible's poetry that we are turning this summer.

In June we've looked at the book of Job. There we see the ancient Hebrew authors wrestling with the idea of suffering and pain. They struggle to come up with answers as to why a loving God would cause (or allow) such things. These are real issues and it is impossible to create absolute answers. In July and August we'll turn to other poetry books: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

We're familiar with the Psalms. We often read them as poems in worship. They express all sorts of feelings: happiness, love, joy, sorrow, frustration, shame, and hate. We rarely use the shame and hate psalms, but they are there. If it is a human emotion, the Psalms will explore it.

Proverbs are about wisdom. And interestingly enough, we meet "Woman Wisdom," which the ancient Hebrews considered a feminine quality in God's creative and organizing work. In my opinion, this is a largely overlooked idea that needs more attention in these days when many people are trying to erase gender understandings of God.

Ecclesiastes is downright depressing. We won't spend much time with it. But it does question mortality and the purpose of life.

And of course there is the Song of Solomon, a love poem that gets a little too sexually graphic for reading in Sunday worship. I'll be picking the verses carefully when we do that book!

I mention all this because we sell our scripture short when we see it as only about history and theology and morality. God has blessed us in the way the Bible explores every aspect of what it means to be human – all the way to your joys, your fears, and your sexuality. Though not everything is clear in the Bible, every subject is within bounds!

God is not stingy with us. God does not call on us to do hard things and then leave us with overly simple instructions. God gives us what we need for everything that comes our way.

If you've never read the Bible, or if you've tried and fizzled out in Leviticus, consider reading a couple chapters of the poetry books every day. They can be confusing, but if you dwell in them you will find yourself feeling the same things that people did thousands of years ago, and you will be finding God in those feelings just as they did.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon



## Family Promise Bed Race 2024

Last year we were the fastest team overall in Family Promise's annual bed race! We're entering our bed again this year. The race is again at the county fairgrounds on Tuesday of fair week (July 23). It would be great to have you on our team, but there's more than just racing participants we're looking for. Come to the fair that night to cheer our team on, and be generous with donations to Family Promise on the team's behalf. Speed is only one of the race categories! Talk to Mary Zuege for more information.

## July Worship Assistants

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Greeters & Ushers	Phyllis Henderson	Linda Flood	Janice Lockwood	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau			
Communion Assistants	Rob Stroup			
Counters	Counters list to be posted			
Coffee Hour			Ice cream	

## August Worship Assistants

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Greeters & Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Mary and Greg Zuege	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau	
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood		Mary Zuege	
Counters				
Coffee Hour			Watermelon	



### Biblical Poetry Summer Worship Series

July and August Bible readings for worship:

- July 7 Psalm 139
- July 14 Psalm 122
- July 21 Psalm 51
- July 28 Psalm 137
- August 4 Proverbs 10
- August 11 Proverbs 8-9
- August 18 Ecclesiastes 3
- August 25 Song of Solomon 2



### 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.

Meeting ID: 882 0747 6838  
Passcode: 855326

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



## 8:30 Worship Outdoors

The 8:30 worship service is using the Outdoor Chapel for the summer. Sometimes it is very sunny and hot on the benches. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair and sit in the shade. Also, please remember that the grass is often wet. You will want to wear appropriate shoes. If you are unable to walk to the chapel you are welcome to drive your car there, and even sit in your car during the service.

## Lawn Mowing Volunteers

We are looking for people to help mow the church lawn. There is a commercial mower that is easy to use, an easy to use zero-turn mower, and a small lawn tractor. It usually takes a couple hours for a team of two. Training is available. Talk to Tom Urbanic if you're willing to help.



## Garden Project 2024

The potatoes, pumpkins, and corn are growing in the church's garden. Weeds are coming up too! We can handle the weeds with our cultivators and rototillers. If you can help please let Pastor Jon know. There is very little hand weeding needed.



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.
- David Storch as he lives in a memory care facility.
- Becca (Boisseau) DeCann as she is again having heart rhythm issues.
- Jacob Sussan, friend of the Boisseaus, who is 24 years old and is receiving treatments for Stage 3 colon cancer.

- Amy Farr, friend of the Boisseaus, who lives in North Carolina and is awaiting a lung transplant.
- William Bullwinkle as he is treated for heart and lung issues.
- Helen Crown as she is recovering from breathing issues.

## June Council Highlights

- Church council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday June 10. Major items on the agenda were:
- Reviewing plans and ministries for the summer months.
  - Adding QR codes for people who would like to make financial donations.
  - Conversation about finding a new financial secretary.



- Thank you to everyone who helped mow the church lawn in June. The church grounds look great!
- Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for maintaining all the plants inside the building.
- Thank you to John Cipollina and Bruce Stevenson for adding lights to the parking lot entrance.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with planting the church garden.

## Community Outreach Committee



## Maggie's Kids Summer Camp

Our day with them is Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> from nine to about 12:30. We are going to try something different this year. We aren't going to ask for food/paper product donations. There will be an envelope on the usher's stand for monetary donations. We will be going shopping. If you write a check it should be written to St. John's. If you are available to help with breakfast or lunch that day please let Burdie Gillern know by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks so much for your support of this project.

# Family Promise News

## Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities:

**Saturday, June 15 - FLX Pride Festival at Lakefront Park in Geneva, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.** We will need volunteers to set up, staff, and take down a Family Promise information table in 2 hour shifts.

**Sunday, June 30 - Family Fun at Lincoln Hill Farms!** Come join us for sunshine, music, food, games, and raffles at Lincoln Hill Farms overlooking Canandaigua Lake! Come and play, or come and help us staff information tables, talk about our mission, and sell raffle tickets!

**Tuesday, July 25 - The Family Promise Amazing Bed Race** will once again take place at the Land of Legends Speedway at 6:00 p.m. on opening night of the Ontario County Fair! We hope you'll join the fun and help us help homeless families get back on their feet! To request a registration packet, volunteer to help at the event, or volunteer to staff a Family Promise of Ontario County information table at the fair, email us at [bedrace@fpocny.org](mailto:bedrace@fpocny.org).

In addition to the Bed Race event, **FPOC will have a table at the County Fair throughout the week.** We are in need of volunteers to staff the table to engage with the community, pass out flyers, and increase awareness of FPOC and the services we provide. We have set up two-hour volunteer time blocks with the goal of having two individuals staff the table during each of these times. If you would like to sign up for a time, please click the link here: [Family Promise of Ontario County: Volunteer Signup for Table at County Fair \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Family Promise of Ontario County: Volunteer Signup for Table at County Fair (signupgenius.com)). Please feel free to pass this on to anyone you know that you think may be interested.

**Save the Date: Saturday, September 14 - 2nd Annual Golf to End Family**

**Homelessness Tournament at the Winged Pheasant Golf Links in Clifton Springs!** Look for details to follow!

## Emergency Shelter Guest Updates:

A wonderful two-parent family with six children has moved into our Saltonstall apartment. They lost their housing when the landlord sold the duplex that they occupied. A single mom with one child has just moved into our upstairs Chapin Street apartment. The downstairs Chapin Street apartment is vacant.

## Prayer Requests:

- Continued progress for guest parents who just landed new, good-paying jobs.
- A warm reconciliation for a guest mom who has just reconnected with her daughters after two years apart.
- Successful transitions for two families as they settle into their newly repaired homes.



## June Bible Trivia Answers

1. Who asks God to be able to test Job? Answer: Satan (Job 1:12)
2. What happens to Job's livestock and children? Answer: They are all killed (Job 1:13-19)
3. What happens to Job's physical condition? Answer: He develops loathsome sores all over his body. (Job 2:7)
4. Job's fortunes are restored by how much? Answer: Double (Job 42:10)

## July/August Bible Trivia Questions

(Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings for worship in July and August.)

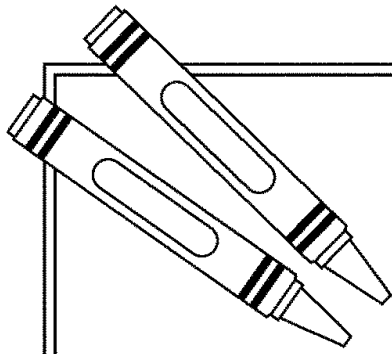
1. Is it possible to escape God's presence?
2. What is an acceptable "sacrifice" to God?
3. When was Wisdom created?
4. According to Ecclesiastes, what is the best thing humans can do?

# July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <u>Thomas, Apostle</u>  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	4 <u>Independence Day</u>	5	6
7 <u>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	8 Maggie's Kids Day at church	9	10  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	11	12	13
14 <u>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	15	16	17  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	18	19	20
21 <u>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Service of the Word  Confirmation Camp	22  Confirmation Camp	23 Family Promise Bed Race  7pm Property Committee Confirmation Camp	24  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous Confirmation Camp	25 <u>James, Apostle</u>  Confirmation Camp	26  Confirmation Camp	27
28 <u>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> <u>J.S. Bach, Musician</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	29	30	31  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous			

# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> <u>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	5	6	7  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	8	9	10
<b>11</b> <u>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	12  6:00 Church Council	13	14  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	15 <u>Mary, Mother of Our Lord</u>	16	17
<b>18</b> <u>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 10:30 Holy Communion	19	20	21  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	22	23	24 <u>Bartholomew, Apostle</u>
<b>25</b> <u>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 10:30 Service of the Word	26	27  7:00 Property Committee	28  7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	29	30	31

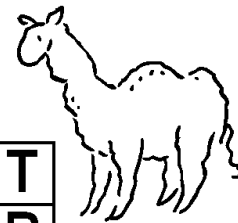
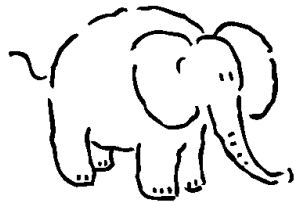


# Just for **KIDS**

## *Hop on the Bus?*

In Bible times it was not easy for people to travel or to transport items. There were no buses or airplanes or bicycles or cars or moving vans. So how did the people travel? How did they move things from place to place?

Find some answers in the Scriptures. Find others from hints given below. Fit the words into the puzzle.



Genesis 24:61 . . . . .

Genesis 22:3 . . . . .

Hybrids, Psalm 32:9 . . . . .

Acts 27:2 . . . . .

James 3:3 . . . . .

1 Samuel 6:7 . . . . .

Need washing often, Genesis 18:4 . . . . .

Used in war and also for their ivory . . . . .

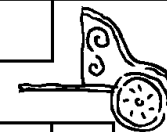


Acts 8:28 . . . . .

Matthew 4:21 . . . . .

Had wheels of wood . . . . .

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# 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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*Address Service Requested*

## **July/August Newsletter**

July 8 Maggie's Kids Day at Church

July 23 Family Promise Bed Race