

On Eagle's Wings

St. John's Monthly Newsletter – June 2024

Pastor's Paragraphs

What is it that makes you who you are? Of course you know the answer to that, but let's look at some incorrect things first. That will help us more fully understand the correct things.

Many people will point to their talents and abilities and say that is what makes them who they are. Indeed, what we can do does impact our sense of self. If you have skills the world recognizes as valuable you will feel valuable. If the world does not recognize your skills as valuable you will have a harder time feeling that way. But your talents and abilities are not what make you who you are.

It is common to look at physical appearances and say that is what makes us who we are. If we look successful then we are successful. If we look like we have a chip on our shoulder then we will have a chip on our shoulder. If we look trustworthy then we are trustworthy. Appearances do tell us a lot. We probably interact with a great number of people we do not know well. A shopping trip puts us in touch with many people. In the absence of knowing most of them well, we judge them by their appearances. Experience teaches us what a look says about a person. But your looks, whether they be your body, your clothes, your house, your car, or something else, do not make you who you are.

Some people will say that wealth, education, and social standing are what make you who you are. This is a clever mistake, for many people spend the entirety of their lives working on these things. And indeed each of them can have useful qualities. But they do not make you who you are.

So what does make you who you are? You know the answer. We'll answer that at two levels.

The first level is that you are a child of God who has been made in the image of God. That is your God-given value. There is nothing you can do to enhance it. There is also nothing you can do to reduce it. No one else can add to or take from the value God gave you. Psalm 139:13-14 comes to mind:

For it was you who formed my inward parts:

You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works,
that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written

All the days that were formed for me,
when none of them yet existed.

These are wonderful words from this psalm. They can be hard to believe though! And they can also be misused. A person can get quite a big head from reading them! So that takes us to the second level.

We are sinners in need of God's grace.

No matter how perfect we try to be, we are always a mix of motives and desires. We also act from limited information all the time. We make countless mistakes we are never aware of. So, we know that we need to turn to God once again. This time to save us from our failures.

It is this level of what makes us who we are that gives us genuine humility. We do not judge others because we ourselves know we live before God in mercy. We are willing to give and to be generous, perhaps even extremely generous from this humility. As I write this we are only a few days before Memorial Day. There is no generosity more deep than giving your life for someone else.

We are children of God and sinners in need of God's grace. That is what makes us who we are. That value is what lets us hold our heads high and never let anyone tear us down. At the same time, our heads do not become swollen. We know we need God.

When we live by these things we are truly alive, and truly solid in who we are.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon

June Worship Assistants

	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Greeters & Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Mary and Greg Zuege	John and Linda Thompson	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care (10:30)	Linda Thompson		Linda Thompson		
Communion Assistants	Sally Mansfield		Gary Boisseau		
Counters	Bruce & Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann	John and Linda Thompson	Bill and Katy Stimmel	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour		Mother's Day			



Biblical Poetry Summer Worship Series

The Bible is a diverse book. Among its many forms of writing is poetry. We usually think of the Psalms as poetry, but there are others. They include Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Job, and others. We'll begin June with a look at Job.

Here's what's planned:

June 2 – Job 1:1 - 2:13

June 9 – Job 3

June 16 – Job 32

June 23 – Job 38:1 – 42:6

June 30 – Job 42:7-17



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.



Adult Sunday School in Summer

The adult Sunday school will continue The Chosen series during the summer months. If you missed an episode, or would like to catch up, you can easily view this video series for free. Talk to Pastor Jon to learn where the class is in the series.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers

We are looking for people to help mow the church lawn. There is a commercial mower that is easy to use 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

Everything was planted in the Garden on May 20. Now we pause a bit until the plants, and the weeds, start to grow! There is very little hand weeding needed. If you are able to help with operating the tractor, one of the cultivators, or one of the rototillers please be in touch with Pastor Jon.



- 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.
- Mark Bair as he recovers from hip surgery.

May Council Highlights

Church council held a planning retreat on Monday May 13. Major items on the agenda were:

- Approving Jen White to fill the council seat vacancy. Welcome Jen!
- Reviewing fellowship plans for the coming months.
- Accepting a gift of a lawnmower from the Iadanzas.
- Conversation about developing a prayer labyrinth in the northwest corner of the property.
- Adding QR codes for people who would like to make financial donations.
- Conversation about finding a new financial secretary.



- Thank you to John DeLeon for painting the siding above the roof line in various parts of the building.
- Thank you to those who mowed the church lawn in May.

- Thank you to everyone who provided items for coffee hour.
- Thank you to the Sunday school teachers for their work in the 2023-24 school year.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the spring cleanup day.
- Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 61 for helping with the spring cleanup.

Community Outreach Committee



Maggie's Kids Summer Camp

Our day with them is Monday, July 8th 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 1st. Thanks so much for your support of this project.



May Bible Trivia Answers

1. In the feeding of the 4000 miracle how many baskets of leftovers are there? Answer: 7 (Mark 8:8)
2. What did Jesus put on the eyes of the blind man from Bethsaida to cure him? Answer: saliva (Mark 8:23)
3. What appears on the heads of those gathered at the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? Answer: tongues of fire (Acts 2:3)
4. What prophet does Peter quote on Pentecost? Answer: Joel (Acts 2:16)

June Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. Who asks God to be able to test Job?
2. What happens to Job's livestock and children?
3. What happens to Job's physical condition?
4. Job's fortunes are restored by how much?

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.

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.

Congregational Support Schedule:

We ask each congregation to help with gift cards (for guest and graduate families) and cash (for utilities, rent, salaries, prevention/stabilization funds, and other expenses) twice a year. Gratitude to the congregations who have recently supported this mission! At the moment we have plenty of gas cards. Walmart cards for our guests, and cash donations to support our program expenses would be the most helpful in April and May!

April Congregations: St. John's Episcopal Canandaigua; United Church of Canandaigua; East Bloomfield UMC; St. John's Episcopal Clifton Springs; Farmington Community Church

May Congregations: Trinity Episcopal Geneva, United Church of Phelps, Our Lady of Peace Parish Geneva, Seneca Castle UMC

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 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <u>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	3 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts Synod Assembly	4 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons Synod Assembly	5 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	6 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	7 3-8 Cello Lessons	8
9 <u>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word 3:00 Piano Recital	10 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:0 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 <u>Barnabus, Apostle</u> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	12 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	13 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	14 3-8 Cello Lessons	15
16 <u>4th Sunday after Pentecost</u> <u>Father's Day</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	17 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	19 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	20 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	21 3-8 Cello Lessons	22
23 <u>5th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	24 <u>John the Baptist</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons	25 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	26 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	27 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	28	29
30 <u>6th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30 Outdoor Service of the Word 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word						



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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