

# On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – March 2025

## Pastor's Paragraphs

What to do? What to do? What to do? Many people are asking this in light of the many changes coming from the executive branch of our federal government. While I have my opinions, they aren't important. I am not an expert in political science or in international relations. Our church denomination does have a social statement called *The Church in Society: a Lutheran Perspective*. It is helpful and I encourage you to read it. It is the product of those who do have expertise. (You can find it online with a search or I can give you a paper copy.) An important perspective that document takes is to remind us that we are in this world but not of this world. And also, that we should act in the present day with an eye towards eternity.

Consider this: Science can tell us there will be some point in the future when this planet will cease to be. That may be billions of years from now, but it will still happen. From the perspective of eternal life, those billions of years will be but a blink of time. Eternity still stretches beyond that.

From that we could easily conclude that the present day and this world don't matter. Yet Christian faith is based on God coming to be in human form; even dying to save creation. That means that limited as the creation is, God deeply values it. The present day is important to God. If it is important to God, then it is important to us; and we are important in it.

We are in this world but not of this world. Regardless of your political leanings, you are a citizen of God's kingdom first. No earthly government can offer you similar privileges or protections. It is idolatry to entirely trust a government or to expect a government to act on behalf of God.

Being in the world but not of the world is easier said than done. Government decisions impact every aspect of our lives: safety, the economy, education, medical care, and much more. Social conventions are also highly impactful. There is a pattern of life our society expects us to live by: grow up, get an education, get a job, own a home, have a family, save for retirement, die with dignity. Yet from the perspective of being citizens of God's kingdom, neither the government nor society should be guiding us. The earliest Christians considered themselves to be exiles in this world. It was a central part of their faith to *not* go along with society.

So, what to do? We need to regularly take a critical look at our lives and what drives us. Consider life from the perspective of eternity and being a citizen in God's kingdom. Ask yourself questions like these:

-Why do I have financial investments where I do? Have I just followed along with what society expects, or have I invested my resources in ways that reflect God's priorities?

-Where do I invest my time? Is it for my own amusement or for the accomplishment of God's kingdom? What priorities are revealed by my travels, vacations, hobbies, and social calendar?

-Where am I stretching and growing in order to stay an effective follower of Christ?

-How am I directly interacting with the problems and needs of my community, and in ways that are constructive?

-How is my need for God's grace reflected in my thoughts and actions?

I believe many people have removed themselves from the real work of life. They'd prefer to be advocates who fight for ideologies, rather than literally getting their hands dirty in the real work. Jesus wasn't an advocate. Jesus got his hands dirty.

What to do? If you're a citizen of God's kingdom with an eye towards eternity, be ready to do hard and enduring work. It will probably feel plain. It may feel too small to be of value. It may not get you ahead in life, but it is God's meaningful work.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon



## Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5 – 7:00pm

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

## March Worship Assistants

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Greeters & Ushers	Linne Griffo and Morgan Sackett	Helen Crown	Linda Flood	Phyllis Henderson	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Alyssa Young	Charlotte Stroup	Elijah Young	Thomas Bullwinkle	Alyssa Young
Altar Care (10:30)	Gary Boisseau		Gary Boisseau		
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann		Nancy Pape		
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann	John and Linda Thompson	Michele Myers Anne Stromstad	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour			Potluck Lunch		



### Upcoming Bible Readings for Worship

We continue reading in Luke’s gospel for March. We see his public ministry continue to develop in the countryside. There are some teachings and some miracles. Big things aren’t happening for Jesus yet, but they are looming on the horizon. Here’s what is planned for March:

- 3/2 Luke 6:16-35
- 3/4 Luke 6:35-49 (Ash Wednesday)
- 3/9 Luke 7:1-17
- 3/16 Luke 7:18-35
- 3/23 Luke 7:36-50
- 3/30 Luke 8:1-21



### 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)



### 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.



### Fat Tuesday Supper

Fat Tuesday is March 4. On this day Christians traditionally celebrated by consuming all the fat in their pantries in preparation for the somber and penitential season of Lent.

We’ll mark this date with a supper of French toast made with homemade bread, fresh fruit, and ice cream. As a bit of light hearted entertainment we’ll show the 20 minute movie *One Week* by Buster Keaton. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.



## 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.

## Mid-Week Lenten Series

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



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.



## 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!

## Almost St. Patrick’s Day Potluck

Are you ready for a wonderful dinner and some great fellowship? Well, here comes the second “Almost St. Patrick’s Day March Potluck” dinner. It will be March 16th right after church, rain or shine. Check the bulletin board for the ever-present sign-up sheets. One will be for your name and number of people in your group. The other(s) will be to sign up for whatever kind of dish you can bring to pass. Everyone is welcome, with or without a dish ... just remember to bring your appetite.

!! GAMES WILL FOLLOW!!

Be in touch with Mary Zuege for more information.



## Souper Bowl of Caring Results

Thanks so much for contributing to the "SOUPER Bowl on Feb. 9th ... We received \$230.00 it will be sent to World Hunger



- Thank you to everyone who helped with plow snow from the church parking lot in February. It was a tough month!
- Thank you to Sunday school children being led by Wendy Sackett for leading worship at 10:30 on Feb. 10.
- Thank you to Mary Zuege for organizing food for the annual congregational meeting.
- Thank you to everyone who gave to the Souper Bowl collection for World Hunger.
- Thank you to Nick Stuart and Jen White for beginning terms on church council.
- Thank you to Pete Gregory for his work as the Financial Secretary.



- 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.
- The family and friends of Steve Campbell as they mourn his death.



## February Council Highlights

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

-Election of Officers:

President – Mark Wyman

Vice-president – Jen White

Secretary – Gary Boisseau

Treasurer – Wayne Young

Financial Secretary – Pete Gregory

-Council Liaisons to committees:

Education – Elizabeth Young

Family Promise – Mary Zuege

Fellowship – Nick Stuart

Outreach – Linda Flood

Property – John CiPollina

Stewardship and Finance – Gary Boisseau

Worship and Music – Greta Crowell

Youth – Jen White

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.



### February Bible Trivia Answers

1. Name two of the four disciples Jesus called when they were fishing along the Sea of Galilee (also called the Lake of Gennesaret) Answer: Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, John (Luke 5:1-11)
2. What tax collector made a great feast for Jesus after Jesus called him to be a disciple? Answer: Levi (Luke 5:27)
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? Answer: Lowered him through the roof (Luke 5:19)
4. What unlawful thing does Jesus say King David did when David and his companions were hungry? Answer: Ate the Bread of the Presence (Luke 6:4)

### March Bible Trivia Questions

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

1. What miracle does Jesus perform in the town of Nain?
2. In every gospel there is a story of a woman anointing Jesus. What part of him does she anoint in Luke's gospel?
3. In the parable of the sower what happens to the seed that falls on the path?
4. Where does Jesus say people put a lamp that is lit?

# March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> <u>Last Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Worship and Music Committee	<b>3</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>4</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Fat Tuesday Supper 7:00 Community Chorus	<b>5</b> <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>6</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>7</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>8</b> Logan Springer Eagle Scout Ceremony
<b>9</b> <u>1st Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>10</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>11</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>12</b> 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>13</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	<b>14</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>15</b> 2-5 "Collaborate for Christ's Sake" at Incarnate Word, Rochester
<b>16</b> <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion 11:45 Almost St. Patrick's Potluck	<b>17</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>18</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	<b>19</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>20</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>21</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <u>3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>24</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>25</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property Committee	<b>26</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>27</b> 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool 10:00 Bible Study in Lyons	<b>28</b> 3-8 Cello Lessons	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <u>4th Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>31</b> 8-3 Classical Conversations 3-7 Violin 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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*Address Service Requested*

## **March Newsletter**

4 Fat Tuesday Supper

5 Ash Wednesday Worship

16 Almost St. Patrick's Potluck