

September
2021

The Eagle

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

On Sunday, September 26th at 11:30AM there is a specially called meeting of the congregation to discuss, and potentially approve, two significant changes to our life together. The first is to build an Outdoor Ministry Center behind our parking lot. The second is to update our constitution.

An Outdoor Chapel (with storage).

Several years ago, we began conversations with our Boy Scout Troop to collaborate and construct a building that would provide storage and an outdoor gathering space. At first, the coronavirus pandemic put those conversations on hold. As the pandemic carried on, however, those conversations were picked up with enthusiasm as it became clear what a blessing a well-constructed, handicap accessible outdoor gathering space could be.

The church council has unanimously recommended for your approval the building of an Outdoor Ministry Center that will feature two garages for storage (one for the Boy Scouts and one for the church) connected by a 50' by 30' pavilion that will serve as an outdoor chapel, meeting area, and gathering place. The cost of this building is approximately \$200,000-250,000. If approved, the church would take out a loan (through the Mission Investment Fund – our denomination's bank) to begin construction with the intention of retiring the loan as soon as possible through charitable gifts from our church members and boy scout families. (A picture of the proposed building can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.)

On Sunday, September 12th at 9:30AM there will be a question-and-answer session with the architect and planning committee. All interested and inquisitive parties are encouraged to attend. Additionally, drawings and the architect's renderings are available upon request. Finally, any concerns or questions will be addressed promptly by the chairman of the ad hoc Outdoor Ministry Center committee, Jim Pankow. Jim may be reached through the main office or via email at jepclc@gmail.com.

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ST. JOHN CHURCH SERVANTS

President
Matt Côté

Vice President
Jennifer Goehle

Secretary
Lee Dryden

Treasurer
Ellen Pancoe

Financial Secretary & Report
Ginny Hohl

Building & Grounds
Rick Bosch

Christian Education
Don Reidell & Jason Ekberg

Finance
Ginny Hohl

Mutual Ministry
Lee Dryden

Personnel
C.J. Ullrich

Social Ministry
Judy Nitchke

Stewardship
Rev. Marsha Irmer

Welcoming/Fellowship
Judy Nitchke

Worship & Music
Larry King & Lee Dryden

Permanent Endowment
C.J. Ullrich

Cemetery
Jenn Goehle

Thrivent Choice

Thank you to all of you who designated your Thrivent Choice money to St. John last year that went toward camperships at LCLC. Because of the Covid pause, it was decided to continue to designate money contributed to this youth experience for 2021. Keep up the good work and email me if there are any questions.
Jane D'Agostino



Life Passages

Maverick Roll was baptized on 7/10/21

Daniel Hooper was baptized on 7/11/21

Riley Walsh was baptized on 8/29/21

Celebration of life for Marilyn Utz (8.28)

Celebration of life for Charles McCarty (8/7)

Holy Committal for Earl Scheffler (7/22)

A Constitutional Change

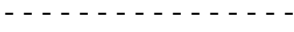
For the better part of a decade, we have flirted with the idea of updating our constitution. Currently, our constitution is out-of-date and inconsistent with the “model constitution” provided by our denomination, the ELCA. Moreover, various pragmatic items in our constitution are seemingly out-of-date and not well-suited for our congregation’s ministry today. Apart from minor updates, the major changes our church council suggests are: 1. changing the congregational year from June - May to December - November, 2. moving our annual meeting to the first Sunday in December, and 3. reducing our council size from 15 to 9 members.

Our current congregational year runs from June to May. The congregational council proposes that we change the congregational year to December through November. This will better sync our congregational life with the church calendar and fiscal year.

Making this change will necessitate a change in scheduling our annual meeting. Currently, we meet on the last Sunday in January for our annual Budget meeting and again on the last Sunday in April for our annual Congregational Meeting. The church council now proposes that we meet once a year in December to adopt a budget for the upcoming fiscal year and report on the ministry of the congregation over the past year.

By reducing the size of the council from 15 to 9 members, we hope to create a leadership board that is representative of the congregation, able to provide oversight of operations, and provide visionary leadership and long-range planning. In addition to not burning out our volunteers by asking them to serve repeatedly as long-term board members, we hope to create a council that is energized to discuss the big-picture aspect of being church. Finally, having more council members than Jesus chose as Apostles seems unnecessary.

On Sunday, September 19th at 9:30AM there will be a question-and-answer session with members of the council and ad hoc constitutional committee regarding the proposed changes. Additionally, the modified constitution will be distributed and available from the church office for all interested and inquisitive parties. Any questions regarding the proposed changes can be addressed to Church Council President, Matthew Cote. Matt may be reached through the main office or via email at mcote@nycc.edu .



They say the best time to plant a tree is twenty-years-ago and the second-best time is today. In the same way, we might say the best time to build an outdoor ministry center would have been two-years-ago and the second-best time... today. Similarly, the best time to update our constitution might have been 10-years-ago, with the second-best time being... today.

We hope you will take time to look carefully at the proposed projects, ask questions, and get involved. As we emerge from this pandemic, we are optimistic about our future and excited about taking steps **today** that will leave our congregation better off **tomorrow**.

Respectfully, The St. John Congregational Council



click [here](#)
for Sunday
school
registration.

click [here](#) for
confirmation
registration.

Potential Constitution Updates

PROPOSED BY-LAWS

(changes in *italics*)

I. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

C10.01.01. The Annual Congregational Meeting shall:

- a. *Be held at the beginning of the Congregational year in the month of December at a time and place determined by the Congregational Council;*
- b. Include the election of members to the Congregational Council;
- c. Receive reports and proposed programs from the officers, committees, and organizations of the Congregation. The reports will be in writing. The Congregational Council may designate reports to be read at the meeting.
- d. *Adopt the budget for the next fiscal year.*

II. THE CHURCH COUNCIL

C12.01.01 *The Congregational Council shall consist of the pastor and nine (9) duly elected voting members.*

C12.01.02 Nominees for the Congregational Council shall be selected by the Nominating Committee.

C12.01.03 Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Congregational Meeting, provided the nominee is a voting member in good standing and is present at the meeting to indicate his or her willingness to serve if elected.

III. CONGREGATIONAL YEAR

C12.02.01 *The Congregational year shall run from December through November of the following year and:*

- a. *The officers shall be elected by the Congregational Council at the first meeting of the new Congregational year.*
- b. *The committees shall be appointed by the Congregational Council in January of the new congregational year.*

C12.02.02 The fiscal year of the Congregation shall be on a calendar year basis.

WELCOMING/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

On Friday, August 27th, twenty-two adults from St. John participated in the first Adult Adventure of the year. It was a beautiful, peaceful morning spent aboard a riverboat where we viewed and learned many interesting facts about the history of the Buffalo River.

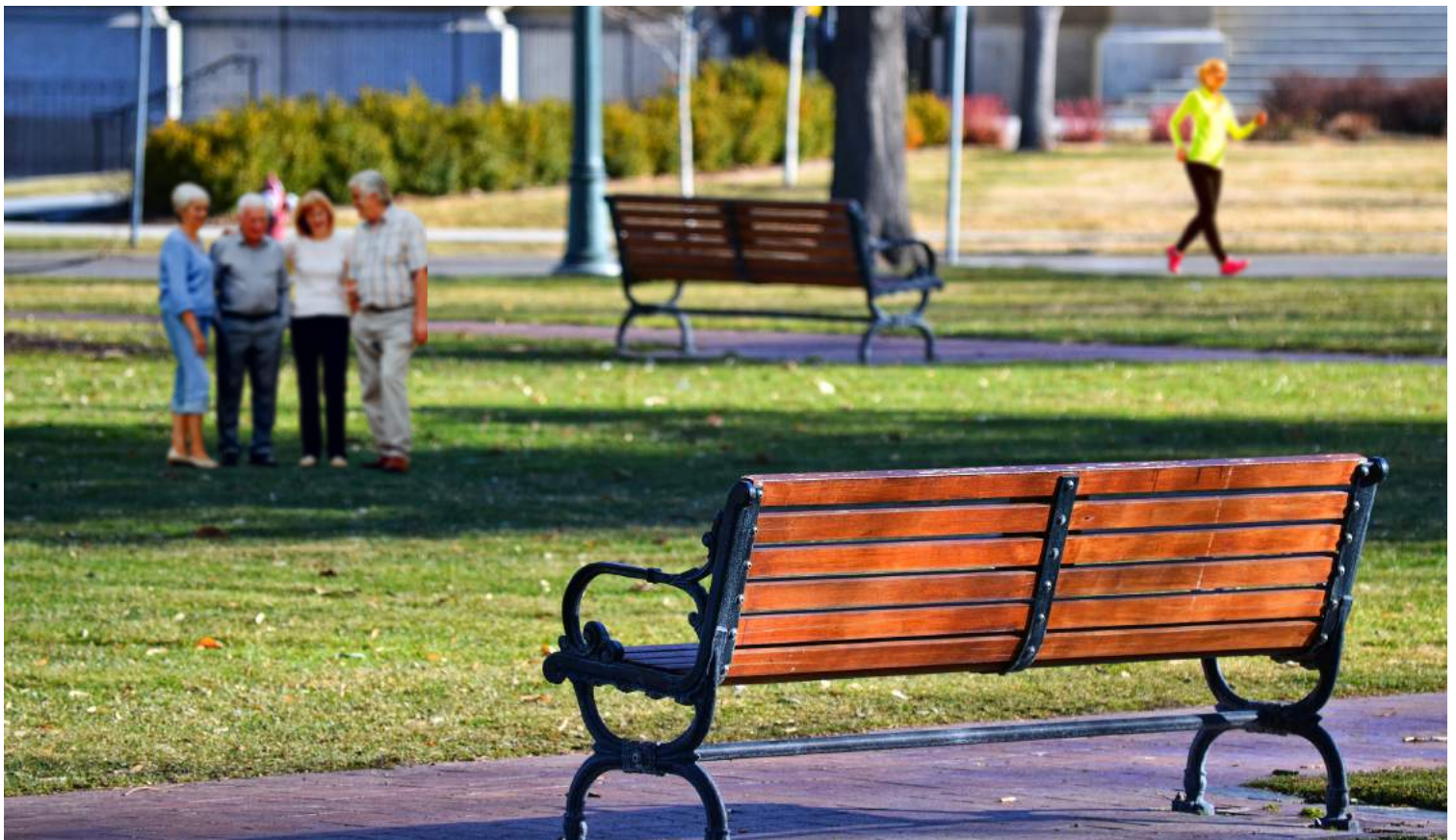
The tour was followed by lunch at the recently opened Hofbrauhaus. The intriguing restaurant design, and atmosphere added to our enjoyment of delicious German cuisine and of course, German beer. "A great time was had by All."

We look forward to the coming months when we offer opportunities to tour the Graycliff Conservancy, Inc, a Historical landmark on the shore of Lake Erie, 6472 Old Lake Shore Road, Derby, NY, and take a day-long tour of some of the wineries in the Chautauqua area. More information on these two events will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

We invite all adults, 21 and older to join us on Friday, September 10 from 11 AM to 1 PM for our Brown Bag Picnic Lunch in the park. Due to popular demand, we are returning to Clarence Town Park at 10405 Main Street in Clarence,, NY.

"Lunch in the park" is a time where we socialize with each other and brainstorm upcoming adventures. We invite you to join in. There is no need to sign up, just show up. We would love to have you and certainly would like to get your input on new adventures.

As the weather changes, we will move the lunches to the Gathering Place at church. Additional information will be sent in future emails. We look forward to having you participate in these adventures.



COUNCIL UPDATE

The August Church Council meeting began with devotions and a prayer for all those affected by the crisis in Afghanistan. After the minutes and agenda were approved, Pastor gave his report. Pastor reported on pastoral acts (including baptisms and memorials). Looking ahead many of our normal activities will resume in September including two worship services, Sunday School, confirmation, and various music ministries. If you desire pastoral care please contact Pastor Scott to arrange a visit or appointment.

The committees offered the following reports...

Social Ministry – The Creative Ministry team has purchased a sewing machine. They plan to create backpacks for suburban schools. St. John has resumed serving and providing meat monthly at Friends of Night People.

Fellowship – Our picnics in the park have been well attended. The Buffalo History boat tour has roughly two dozen attendees.

Christian Education – Registration is open for Sunday School and Confirmation. The registration forms can be found on the website on the “Youth Ministry” page.

Worship and Music – We will resume 2 services on September 12. A choir and a bell choir will be formed and each will accompany worship 4 times a year.

Personnel – Sara Accardi received a review from Pastor Scott. Her strong points were encouraged and guidance was provided to help her grow into her position as the Administrative Assistant.

Building and Grounds – Our water heater needs repair and a new dishwasher is needed. A motion was passed to spend \$3,000 to 5,000 for a new commercial-grade dishwasher.

Stewardship – The annual campaign will be held in October and will be accompanied by some sort of Mission Fair. A motion was passed to donate \$3,000 to ELCA Disaster Relief to assist with Western US wildfires and Haiti earthquake.

Mutual Ministry – The committee met in June to discuss concerns about communication between congregation members and Pastor Hannon about pastoral care needs. Actions were taken to improve communication, especially during pandemic restrictions.

Permanent Endowment – We currently have \$553,000 in the fund.

Cemetery – A car crash destroyed the St. John sign. Recovery is being sought from driver’s insurance.

Finance – Our second PPP loan was forgiven. 8-10 counters are now needed. They will begin to count on September 12. July income was strong. The financial situation of the church is strong.

In the new business portion of the meeting, the Outdoor Ministry Center and Constitutional Revisions were discussed. A motion was passed to call a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 26 at 11:30 AM to discuss and approve building the ministry center and adopt the constitutional revisions. Drawings and financial details regarding the ministry center will be emailed out to the congregation. Also, constitutional revisions will be emailed out to the congregation prior to the September meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM





RECREATION RENEWAL REST

ADULT RETREAT

COST

SINGLE - \$200
DOUBLE - \$140/PERSON

The cost includes all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast as well as a modest program fee. Each participant is invited to bring snacks and preferred beverages for evening fellowship.

BREATHE. BE AT PEACE.

Rarely do church groups get together without an agenda. However, this retreat aims to provide just that. The plan for the weekend is to create sacred space for refreshment and recreation. Each retreat-goer will have the ability to take time in creation and rest amongst brothers and sisters from our church community. We will laugh, eat, share stories, take hikes, drink coffee (& more), listen, and find time to just be.

REGISTER NOW

WWW.SJLCAMHERST.COM/RETREAT

[CLICK HERE.](#)

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2021

Discover Joy. Share Love. Grow Faith.

SJLC@LCLC

SEPTEMBER 2021

Worship Updates

WHEN TO PRAISE & HOW TO GET INVOLVED

HOLY
BIBLE

NEW
REVISED
STANDARD
VERSION

Announcements

Outdoor Worship 9/5/21
Two Services beginning 9/12/21
Assisting Ministers are needed
Music Ministry Interest Form
Outdoor Chapel/Ministry Center
(see the next page for details)

Outdoor Worship

To celebrate our last 9:30AM Sunday service of the season we will worship on September 5th OUTDOORS on the grounds and parking lot of St. John (weather permitting).

Bring a lawn chair or one will be provided for you. The service will also be streamed via FM transmitter for those who wish to remain in their vehicles.

**8:30 & 10:30 services resume
Sunday, September 12, 2021**

**Music Ministry
Interest Form**
[click here or visit...](https://www.sjcamherst.com/music)
[sjcamherst.com/music](https://www.sjcamherst.com/music)

**If you are interested in
serving as an 8:30 or
10:30AM Assisting Minister
please contact the church
office at your earliest
convenience.**

Outdoor Ministry Center

On Sunday, September 26th at 11:30AM there will be a specially called congregational meeting to vote on the construction of a new outdoor ministry center.

This project, in conjunction with our Boy Scout troop, will provide ample storage coupled with a large pavilion for worship and outdoor gatherings.

Additional details and drawings are available on our website.

Buffalo History Boat Tour



THANK YOU!

Dear Friends at St. John,

Thanks so much for your donation benefiting the 23rd Lutheran Charities Golf Classic held on August 9, 2021. Because of your generosity, the basket auction alone raised over \$1700 for our Lutheran Charities Agencies.

Thank you to all who participated in our 23rd Lutheran Charities Golf Classic on August 9, 2021. We hope you enjoyed the day at our new venue. The event was a great fundraising success, benefiting agencies offering education, nutrition, health care and social services to our underserved neighbors.

Dear members of St. John,

When Lutheran Charities moved from its small single office at Amherst to the spacious offices at St. John, the move was transformational for us- so much more space for storage, a professional office for the Executive Director, and room for me to be very comfortable. When our meetings needed space in the conference room or gathering area, you were always accommodating, even to the point of a St. John member making coffee for meetings. For all that I thank you. Your friendliness & hospitality have been outstanding. May God continue to bless your ministry.

Blessings, Peace & Love

Marilynn Horwood
Lutheran Charities

Thank you for your purchase of a sewing machine from Marie's Sewing Center.



Thank you for your continued support of the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. We are well into the heat of the summer, and families greatly enjoy the extra tasty treats we have for them because of generous donations such as yours.



Thank you kindly for hosting our daughter's Baptism. You were very welcoming and understanding and we are excited to be apart of this church. God Bless!

From the Walsh Family
(Matt, Katie, Riley)

Thank you to all who have made contributions to the Haller House Roof! The Roof replacement was completed months ago and has been nearly paid for from donations. The amount of \$10,000 was included in the 2021 budget and, as of August 15th, \$9,565 has been given for the project. We thus need \$435 to cover the cost. If you would like to make a contribution, please write "Haller House Roof" on your check. Thank you in advance!

We wanted to say thank you for all your efforts and Scott for truly expressing who our Mom was and represented to everyone. It was a very nice service and memorial - we were all touched that our memories and thoughts were used by you in the service. It was great that members of the church attended the service too - it was appreciated

Thanks for everything
Mike, Sandi, Ed and Dad

ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement

Family and Friends of Bertha Fiala, aunt of Deb Francis

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

**Zach, Mika, and Baby Theo Slaper, Debbie Amsewicz, Deb Francis, Wayne Yendall,
Karen Caton, Helen Smith, Bob Tiffany, Gayle Bosch, Sue Liptak, Merv Moore, Ellen Manthey,
Gordon Steinhilber, Jerry Szykowny, Ed Utz, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak,
Ruth Bertini, Julie Reece,**

Anne Dehn, mother of Kenneth Dehn

Kathy Borsik, friend of Ellen Lohead

Michelle Newman, friend of Susan Hadala

Chris Watkins, co worker of Ken Dehn

Joanna Graser, Niece of Jean Delamere

Carol Traina, Rich and Bobbie Traina's Daughter-in Law

Christie Guadagno, Sister of Bobbie Traina

Vicki Altenoeder, Sister of Bobbie Traina

Karen Sunick, Sister Bobbie Traina

Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté

Susan Henckel, cousin of Deb Francis

Krisitne Kelly and Suzanne Kelly, relatives of the Dryden family

Richard Schaus and Tom Burkman, friends of Lee Dryden

Brent Chomziak and family, friends of the Sivak family

Traub Family, friends of Pastor Marsha Irmer

Tim Weinsbeck friend of the Wylie Family

Eugenia Smith, friend of Marie Palermo

For those alone in their homes during this time of isolation.

For unity, peace, and the healing of our nation.

For those entrusted with medical research and development.

The homeless, hungry, cold and lonely.

Those victimized by any form of violence, abuse, coercion, and addiction.

Military: Jed Breitsch, Tim Bryk, Jeremy Burgett, Mike Ferguson, Trevor Louth, Hunter Misner, Michael Mommertz, Kurt Mommertz, Brandon Nadasio, Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, Kurt Wasilewski, John Wendelin, Jacob Roy, James Gregory, Nicholas Ford, Ben Hoyt, Zachary Beers

Names will be kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if you need your loved one on for longer please let the office know and we will be glad to keep them on.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Paul Swanson	9/2	Jan Svec	9/17
Al Kaye	9/3	Judith Nitchke	9/17
Jill Rainero	9/3	Kate Hannon	9/17
Matthew Rosa	9/3	Diana Brock	9/18
Jerry Szykowny	9/4	Donna Wylie	9/18
Ace Mullins	9/5	Vikki Hirschey	9/18
Connor Wark	9/5	Kim Roll	9/19
Lisa Bogart	9/5	Betty Williams	9/25
Brian Roll	9/7	Janet Cooper	9/25
Haley Parker	9/8	David Pawlowki	9/26
David Campbell	9/11	Justin McMullen	9/26
Andy Licht	9/13	John Wendelin	9/27
Beatrice Lawniczak	9/13	Matthew Roll	9/28
		Sydney Blake	9/30

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, *Pastor* | Rev. Charlie Greene, *Visitation Pastor*
Cindy Lin, *Traditional Music Leader* | Elena Erokhina, *Contemporary Music Leader*
Sara Accardi, *Administrative Assistant* | Jared Bulinski, *Sexton*



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