

**May
2021**

**ST. JOHN
CHURCH SERVANTS**

President

Matt Coté

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

Nicole Lawniczak & Ginny Hohl

Mutual Ministry

Lee Dryden

Personnel

Megan Manning & C.J. Ullrich

Social Ministry

Ellen Lohead & Judy Nitchke

Stewardship

Rev. Marsha Irmer

Welcoming/Fellowship

Judy Nitchke

Worship & Music

Larry King & Lee Dryden

Permanent Endowment

C.J. Ullrich

Cemetery

Jenn Goehle

The Eagle

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

“But the hour is coming,” Jesus said, “and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

This year we were reminded of what Jesus taught the Samaritan woman at the well...

You don't need to be in a particular place
at a particular time
dressed in a particular way
on any particular day to worship God.

Rather, the worship God desires can happen anytime and anywhere. It happens when we offer worship not through rote and routine words, but in spirit and truth.

This year we worshiped from our patios and couches. We worshiped in our cars and in parking lots. Dining room tables and TV trays became altars. We worshiped in the wee hours of the morning and into the late hours of the night. We offered prayers from just about every zip code in Western New York. And our prayers were joined with brothers and sisters hundreds of miles away. Rumor has it sometimes we even worshiped in pajamas.

It was different. Sometimes, it was a little awkward (for me anyway). But each time it was offered, it was received. Moreover, it was the worship God desires.

As we move forward, we will continue to offer a variety of worship experiences and opportunities. While it would be great to just “get back to normal,” there are still limitations and concerns that have to be taken into account.

For the time being, a worship video will be prepared on a weekly basis for at-home worship. If you are sick, awaiting COVID test results, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, we hope you will take advantage of this form of worship. This worship also works for times of travel or when schedules don't permit Sunday AM attendance. These videos can be found on our website and YouTube channel.

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Evening & Morning

*Evening and morning,
sunset and dawning,
wealth, peace, and gladness
comfort in sadness:
these are your works,
rich in glory divine!
Times without number,
awake or in slumber,
your eye observes us,
from danger preserves us,
causing your mercy
upon us to shine.*

*To God in heaven
all praise be given!
O God, we offer
and gladly proffer
gifts from your hand;
these alone you will prize:
hearts that receive you
and faith to believe you;
hymns that adore you
are precious before you
and to your throne
like sweet incense arise.*



Passages

Charlotte Kozlowski was baptized
on April 18, 2021.

Also, on Sunday mornings at 9:30AM we will gather for in-person worship at St. John. When the weather permits, we will worship in the parking lot. On cold or rainy days, we will worship in the sanctuary. Since we have offered in-person worship, we have just about been at capacity each week. So, we appreciate your flexibility and patience as we continue to try to find ways to provide a peaceful and worshipful environment. (Additionally, we will endeavor, when possible, to stream the Sunday morning service for those who cannot attend in-person but desire a more traditional worship experience.)

Weekly worship information will be sent out via email on Saturday afternoons.

Needless to say, to worship in these various expressions takes a great deal of staff and volunteer support. I thank God for our talented and dedicated community. We could not do what we have done without the faithful disciples who call St. John their church home.

Finally, thank you for continuing to find a way to worship. It is imperative that we tend to our spiritual life (especially now). Thank you for the prayers offered behind masks or in pajamas.

Thank you for worshiping in spirit and truth.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Scott

Women's Ministries

The Women's Chat Group at St. John
will begin to meet in-person
on Saturdays this May.

We will gather from 2-3:30PM outdoors
when the weather permits and in the
Gathering Space on yucky weather days.



Men's Ministries

SJLC men meet on Zoom twice
each week at 7:00 PM Monday and
Thursday night's. Also as the
weather begins to improve we will
start meeting Saturday mornings
outside at church.

Any men who are interested and are
not receiving my emails with the
Zoom link should contact me at
rickseab@gmail.com.



COUNCIL UPDATE - APRIL MEETING

The council meeting began shortly after 7PM on April 20th. The meeting was held via Zoom. Judy Nitchke, Lee Dryden, Ginny Hohl, Matt Cote, Jenn Goehle, Ellen Lohead, Megan Manning, Marsha Irmer, Rick Bosch, Larry King, C.J. Ullrich, Don Reidell, and Pastor Hannon were in attendance. The meeting began with prayer. The agenda was adopted, and the previous month's minutes were approved.

Pastor Hannon reported on his ministry including his chaplaincy with the Main Transit Fire Department, completed boundary and sexual harassment training, work with various committees and a recent Easter Egg Hunt. Pastor noted that worship continues to be offered in various facets (online, in-person, and live-streamed). The Easter service in the cemetery was a great success. Pastor presided at the funeral of Nelson Winegar and the baptism of Charlotte Kozlowski. Pastor ended his report thanking the many servants of St. John for sharing their time and talents.

The committees offered the following reports:

Cemetery: the intended "scattering garden" will now be called the "cremation garden." Plans for landscape design are being requested from local nurseries. New trees will be planted this spring.

Social Ministry: stay tuned for another drop-off to support those in need. This time we will be collecting blankets for Friends of Night People, food for Tiger's Den, and Tops grocery cards for homeless veterans. Additionally, clothing and personal items will be provided to seniors in need at a local skilled nursing facility.

Fellowship: the bags of cheer event was very successful. The men's and women's chat groups continue and will eventually be held in-person, outdoors at the church.

Christian Education: Sunday School will resume in the fall of 2021.

Personnel: Cindy has been accompanying the worship services. Dawn has requested to return to her position.

Building and Grounds: The Haller House roof was installed. Larry King is working with a team to live-stream the worship services.

Stewardship: since the start of the pandemic St. John has collected \$2,835 to support ELCA World Hunger.

Finance: Jocelyn Hirschey completed audits of all the church accounts for 2020. The Haller House will be paid with \$15,000 from reserves and the balance split between earmarked donations and 2021 income. The church obtained a second PPP loan (grant).

During the business portion of the meeting in-person worship was discussed. Since opening on April 11th, we have been at capacity each week. Council members were asked to wait in the narthex to allow other families a pew. Worship will be held outdoors as soon as it can be arranged.

The annual meeting will be held on April 25th at 10:30AM via zoom and in-person. Matt and Joni Cote were recommended as delegates to the Synod Assembly.

The ad hoc constitution and by-laws committee noted some progress. The team is working on updating our constitution, so it is in line with the model constitution provided by the ELCA. Moreover, the following changes were proposed for discussion: removing the requirement that committees are represented by council members, allow electronic voting and meeting, and amend the by-laws so the ministry year is December – November, the annual meeting is held in December each year, and the council size is reduced from 15 to 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.

Respectfully,
Lee Dryden



Happy Mother's Day!

On this day we give thanks to all women who provide motherly care!

Proverbs 31:26

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."



Happy Memorial Day!

"Heroism doesn't always happen in a burst of glory. Sometimes small triumphs and large hearts change the course of history."

— Mary Roach

SOCIAL MINISTRY - ACCEPTING DONATIONS



We are collecting...

- blankets and socks for Friends of Night People
- cereal, sugar, rice, shampoo, & deodorant for Tiger's Den
- \$5 Top's gift cards (or cash) to support homeless veterans

Items may be dropped off on Sunday mornings or on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9AM-2PM. Thank you for continuing to show God's love through your generosity and thoughtfulness.

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

-Martin Luther



BJ'S Membership

St. John has a business account at BJs and any member is eligible to become a BJs member through St. John. The normal BJs annual membership is \$55. However, as a member through St. John, your annual membership would be \$30. Please contact the office if you are interested in this opportunity. The office email is stjohnamherst@gmail.com



Easter Photos



THANK YOU, ST. JOHN!

Dear Pastor Scott, Judy, Oaklie, and congregation,

Thank you so very much for the wonderful "Bags of Cheer" for our residents. We gave them out after lunch on Friday. They loved them and were so excited. I never knew so many seniors liked Werther's caramels.

One lady who is from Germany received a bag from a student who had traveled to Germany. The student told about her trip and even enclosed pictures. It made her day, and she showed the pictures to everyone. A gentleman, who is a retired veterinarian received hand drawn pictures of animals, and he was so excited.

These were truly, "God moments"

We appreciate your kindness, Lisa

It was very thoughtful of you & the students to remember us at Greenfield Court. We appreciate the words and all the gifts.

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you on behalf of all of us for your thoughtful and generous gifts. We were just delighted to know that you all thought of us. The gifts were incredible. It was as though you all knew what we needed or wanted. There was a lot of trading going on. It was great fun! Thank you again. Everything was so appreciated.

Gratefully, your friend,

Elaine

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts!

It is very much appreciated. Your thoughtfulness in choosing things was wonderful and very helpful to me for sure!!

Love and Thank you,

Laila

I would like to thank your church for the wonderful bag's that Judy Nitchke dropped off at Beachwood. The bags were a HIT! The residents who received them were all so pleased. One resident stated she "loved the word snack books and comedy." Another resident was delighted with the pretty stuffed bear in the gift box. Thank you for thinking of us at Beachwood.

Holly Lange

director of activities



Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your wonderful gifts. Your hearts are as big as the sun! T.U.so much for thinking of us, we really appreciate it.

Muriel, Gerry, Lou, Florence, Frieda, Harry, Janet, Clara, Betty



You're very thoughtful and gracious gift came at an appropriate time for me as I am recovering from a hip surgery. I am wishing you a very good summer. With all my wishes for you and my thanks for your gift.

I wanted to let you know how much your notes and pictures meant to our residents! Thank you so much for taking the time to reach out. You truly did send "bags of cheer".

Dear Friends at St. John Lutheran Church,

I was so touched when the activities leader offered me the chance to choose one of the dozens of "Good Cheer" bags just because. I'm a woman of age 74 but when I began to open it, I reverted to a young girl of 16 years of age. It was like a lovely Birthday party. Each gift in the bag was more desirable than the one before.

Your congregation is so kind and thoughtful. The whole gesture was priceless, and I want to Thank You from the bottom of my heart. "May the sun shine wherever you go."

The upmost gratitude,

Lisbeth

ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST



Hospitalized and Homebound

Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry, Wayne Yendall

Loss and Bereavement

Family and Friends of Donna Neureuther, sister of Ethel Semrau and Bob Tiffany

Linda and Michael Allen, friends of the Allen family

Family and Friends of Roger Tennis, friend of John Sivak and Susan Hadala

Family and Friends of Sandra Friedfertig, friend of Marsha Irmer

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

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

Debbie Felton, Sister in law of Brian Smith

Marilou Taylor, friend

Rick Yendall, son of Judy and Wayne Yendall.

Charlotte Peck, sister in-law of Ginny and Ray Hohl

Joanne van Zyl, sister of Jean Delamere

Brent Chomziak and family, friends of the Sivak family

Janice Cash, daughter of Lois Robinson Fullam

Traub Family, friends of Pastor Marsha Irmer

Jen Diakun, daughter of Kate and Jim Olson

Kimberly Kalfahs, granddaughter of Yvette Haller

Ann Giuseppetti, sister-in-law of Brenda and Dave Burow

Carol Traina Daughter-in-Law of Bobbie and Rich Traina

The Greenawalt Family, friends of Bobbie and Rich Traina

The Grant Family, friends of Bobbie and Rich Traina

Christie Guadagno, sister of Bobbie Traina

Sandy Williams, sister of Bobbie Traina

Michelle Newman, friend of Susan Hadala

Mary Mussell, family of Susan Hadala

Bill Hannon, grandfather of Pastor Scott

Miriam Benson, ex-wife of Jim Olson

Tim Weinsbeck friend of the Wylie Family

Camden Smith, great nephew of Deb Francis

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

		Samantha Kozlowski	5/16
		Chantal Rubino	5/17
Bill Westley	5/1	Jocelyn Hirschey	5/19
Christopher Stohl	5/1	Heather Swanson	5/20
Cheryl Boling	5/2	Edward Utz, Jr	5/22
Katie Dryden	5/3	Norm Hirschey	5/23
Carolyn Campbell	5/4	Barb King	5/24
Laura Kachelmeyer	5/4	Nicole Lawniczak	5/24
Ellen Pancoe	5/5	Candy Scorsone	5/27
Carole Reid	5/6	Jane D'Agostino	5/27
Dave Barth	5/8	Charlie Greene	5/28
Wayne Yendall	5/11	Johnathon Johnson	5/29
Todd Johnson	5/12	Dave Ekberg	5/31
Ashley Merlihan	5/13	Ronin Rainero	5/31
Bob Tiffany	5/13	Vincent Tobia	5/31
Melissa Licht	5/13		
Brian Burd	5/15		



STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, *Pastor* | Rev. Charlie Greene, *Visitation Pastor*
Dawn Schregel, *Music Director* | Cindy Lin, *Organist/Accompanist*
Jared Bulinski, *Sexton*, Sara Accardi, *Administrative Assistant*



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