

The Eagle

April
2022

**ST. JOHN
CHURCH COUNCIL
SERVANTS**

Matt Cote
Lee Dryden
Ginny Hohl
Rick Bosch
Marsha Irmer
Don Reidell
CJ Ullrich
Shirleen Besch
Brian Hirsche

THE PASTOR'S NOTE...

When I was in high school, I attended an ELCA National Youth Gathering in St. Louis, MO. It was an incredible experience for many reasons. It was the first time I flew on a plane and left home for an extended time without mom and dad. Spiritually, as a young Christian, it was the first time in my religious formation that I felt somewhat responsible for my own faith.

Unfortunately, while the trip was epic, some of the logistics left many things to be desired. Our hotel was outside of the city and we didn't have reliable or public transportation to get us where we needed to go. The only restaurants near us were dive bars unsuitable for teenagers or diners that closed after lunch. Consequently, we often went hungry and waited on taxis for hours to get where we needed to go. All of us, the youth, the chaperones, and our pastor, were constantly stressed.

And so, towards the end of the experience, we revolted. On one of the last days we went to a theme park and afterward we declared we were *too tired* and *too hungry* and *too disinterested* in going to the Mass Gathering Church Service that evening. We didn't want to wait for taxis. We didn't want to wait for food. We didn't want to stand in line. We didn't want to fight the crowds. We just wanted to eat pizza by the side of the hotel pool.

The chaperones were easy to sway. In hindsight I think they wanted to eat pizza and have a few pops by the pool too. However, when our youth delegation went to our pastor to explain our ironclad agreement to stay at the hotel, he simply said...

We are here to worship the Lord who gave his life for you. Please consider what you are willing to offer in return. We replied (to paraphrase), "We feel like we've suffered enough." He said, "Okay."

Then, he asked, "Is an hour in the car too long?" We said, "Yes."
He asked, "Is a half hour on the sidewalk too much?" We said, "Yes."
He asked, "Is a bit of hunger too far?" Again, we said, "Yes."

Finally, he asked, "What then will you endure or suffer for the one who gave it all for you?"

Continued on page 2.



Life Passages

Celebration of life for Lauren Taggart was held on Saturday March 12th, 2022.

Creative Ministry

The Creative Ministry group has been hard at work through Covid. Many individuals worked on project kits for clothing protectors, back packs and port pillows. We were able to meet in person last month. The group got right to work making stuffed teddy bears that are given at baptism, clothing protectors and port pillows. We were able to donate 15 clothing protectors to a local nursing home and 30 port pillows to Roswell Park Cancer Institute. These donations are much appreciated. This month we will be working on marble mazes to be donated to nursing homes for Alzheimers' patients.

Anyone is welcome to join the group. You do not need to sew. There is something for everyone to work on. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Gathering Space from 10 until lunch time. If you have questions contact Pam Figel (kfigel@aol.com or (716) 639-0235.

We were speechless (probably because there is only one right answer to that question).

The silence was broken when our chaperones went to the front desk to call the taxi cabs.

In the end, we went downtown. It took forever. And as we feared we arrived home very late at night extremely hungry. However, at the Mass Gathering (that we wanted to skip) we also got to hear Archbishop Desmond Tutu speak. It was a few years after apartheid ended. In his speech, the world was opened to us. Our narcissism was opened to us. And, at that formative chapter in our own lives, our sin was revealed to us along with God's grace.

I'll never forget. Tutu said, "You are neat." He talked about the power of truth and reconciliation and forgiveness (against retribution and vengeance and punishment). He named the power of prayer, non-violence, international support, and peace. He reminded us that God has no one but us to bring healing and hope to a world that is torn apart. He said God loves us and that we were special... just because. Not *because* of anything. *Just* because.

He made us say/shout/scream repeatedly, "I am a VSP." "I am a Very Special Person." We had been telling ourselves that all day, but something about the way he meant it changed everything. He made us glad to be VSP's together in that place, even though it was a pain in the neck to get there and despite how exhausted, hungry, and worn out we were.

We went home in tears – somehow emptier, but fuller at the same time. To this day I am sure that each and every one of us was glad we went.

I know our church is tired right now. And hungry. And through with waiting. And desperate for easy and fun and familiar. Moreover, I am sorry for the challenges that are ahead of us. However, let us remember as we enter this sacred season, we are approaching that time of the year when we are reminded of what God was willing to do for us. In that Spirit, I implore you, please consider what you are willing to offer in return. Finally, please trust that God will use whatever we show up with to build The Kingdom and our time together will become a blessing for us and the life of the world.

In the Way, PSDH

Outdoor Ministry Center Update

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, **April 3rd, 2022 at 9:30 AM** to discuss the Outdoor Ministry Center.



COUNCIL UPDATE

The March Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on the 15th. The meeting began with scripture and prayer.

The previous month's minutes were approved and the agenda was adopted. Pastor reported that there were memorial services for Ruth and Paul Bertini and a funeral for Lauren Taggart. It was a busy month with a Youth Lock-In, Confirmation, and a fellowship luncheon. Pastor thanked Don Reidell for preaching for him so he could recharge a bit before Easter.

The committees offered the following reports...

Social Ministry – Our Lented Challenge is to support Haven House. Please see the Eagle for ways you can help. Our rummage sale is scheduled for June 4th. Flowers from the Taggart funeral were distributed to nursing homes and the leftover food was donated to Friends of Night People.

Welcoming/Fellowship – many thanks to Judy Nitchke for organizing another fellowship luncheon. God on Tap will resume in the near future.

Personnel – We are still searching for a new sexton. In the meantime our cleaning crew and church volunteers will pick up some extra responsibilities. (**NOTE:** since the council meeting the position has been offered to Brittany Grabowski, our cleaner.)

Worship and Music – there was a discussion on how to encourage congregational singing. It was suggested that we play the organ louder and quieter.

Christian Education – 8-10 children are participating in Sunday morning instruction. (**NOTE:** attendance has dropped off since the meeting). Teachers are still needed for the spring. Kate Hannon has taken on many of the responsibilities. The council thanks her.

Youth – a lock-in was successful. Youth Night is happening the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Building and Grounds – boiler work and maintenance was required.

Stewardship – Giving to ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Relief for Ukrainian refugees was encouraged. Checks can be made out to St. John. Elena Erokhina is hosting a fundraiser to support a bunker in Kyiv at St. John on March 26, 2022.

Finance – We currently have a modest surplus. Approximately \$9,000 is in the Outdoor Ministry Center fund. Spending on computers and technology exceeded the budget but has allowed us to provide a long-term option for remote worship. The system was very beneficial to help broadcast a funeral recently. The church was audited and passed.

There was a discussion on credit card fees on gifts received online. The conversation was tabled until further information can be required.

The council voted to give \$1,500 to World Hunger to help with the Ukrainian crisis.

During the business portion of the meeting the Outdoor Ministry Center was discussed. The cost has increased to \$372,000 due to rising costs and the addition of an altar space. The council voted to call a meeting of the congregation to approve the new figures and finalize the project. The meeting will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 9:30AM.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.



Lenten Challenge

Haven House was founded in 1979 by the Coalition for Victims of Domestic Violence (now known as the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence) and is a recognized leader in the provision of domestic violence services. Haven House works to prevent domestic and intimate partner violence and promote peace in the home. Our services for survivors include an emergency shelter in a confidential location, long-term transitional housing, and counseling to help individuals cope with the pain and trauma of violence in the home.

Overall Agency Needs:

- Diapers (Size 5), pull-ups and wipes
- Enfamil Gentlease formula
- Baby bottles
- Liquid and/or foaming hand soap
- Personal hygiene Items
- School Items, especially:
 - New Backpacks
 - Pens (blue and black ink)
- Umbrellas (new or gently used, all sizes/colors)
- Coats (youth and adult, all sizes)
- Underwear (all kids ages/size, new only)
- Socks (all kids ages/sizes, new only)
- Pajamas (all kids ages/sizes)
- Blankets (twin)
- Towels and wash clothes
- Sheet sets (twin)
- New pillows

Haven House Needs:

- Gift cards to: Amazon, Walmart, Target, or Visa in any size.
- Hair product brands: Ampro Style Shine & Jam, Pink Oil Sheen,
- BB Super Grow, Pink Lotion and Pantene Gold
- Pajamas for boys and girls, sizes 7-16
- Razors (at least 2 or 3 blades preferred)
- Laundry detergent
- Women's deodorant
- Women's shampoo (full-sized bottle)
- Baby shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Full-sized body lotion
- Twin size blankets
- Hair conditioner
- Body wash
- New, Plus-sized clothing
- Women's underwear (especially larger and plus sizes)
- Underwear for pre-teen and children (boys and girls)

Amazon Wish List:

[Click here](#)

Donate Online:

[Click here](#)

BJ's Membership

BJ's memberships are available through St. John at a discounted rate.

For details please contact the church office.



THANK YOU SJLC

Dear St. John,
Thank you for your generous gift to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Your generous gift is providing life-sustaining care for migrant workers and refugee families during this time.
Krish O'Mara Vignarajah

Thank you so much from the residents and workers in Memory Care. We could not be more pleased with all the amazing things you do. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

Bristol Village MCU

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,
On behalf of all the people we serve, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service would like to thank you for your generosity throughout the year 2021. Your financial gifts are so important and are truly making a difference in the lives of immigrants and refugees each and every day. So today, we want to personally thank you for welcoming refugees and immigrants with open arms by financially supporting this ministry of welcome in 2021. Your ongoing support assists us in the mission to care for and welcome the stranger. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to be the hands and feet of Jesus at home and all around the world.

Dear friends-
Thank you so much for your kind and generous donation of port pillows for our patients. Your time and effort and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

The resource center staff.

Thank you to those who helped and donated to the Ukraine fundraiser. It was an inspirational event.

Together we were able to raise a great deal of money (\$11,000) to support those in need.

Well done, St. John. You are good and faithful servants.

In God's peace,

Andrew G. Steele & Dr. Kristin Witte

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Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service recognizes

**SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY

as a

TOP GENEROUS CONGREGATION

*On behalf of LIRS and those we serve,
we thank you for your generosity in 2021!*

ANDREW G. STEELE

Vice President for Development and Outreach

Dear Gathered in Prayer Group,

Sending joyful thoughts your way and saying thank you for the comfort of the prayer cross. I appreciate all the prayers you say for me. So sorry I keep coming up with new prayer needs.

Love and Hugs,
Gayle Bosch



Friends of Night People would like to express our sincere thanks for the gifts of meat, and for the time of the church volunteers from St John Lutheran church. They helped provide meals and hope to those in need in our community. This support is so important, especially over the past few years, to keep our organization healthy and strong while provided an unprecedented number of meals.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
4.10.22

8:30 & 10:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt
4.10.22

9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday

4.14.22
7 PM

Good Friday

4.15.22
7 PM

Easter Sunday

4.17.22

Stay tuned for details

Soup Luncheon

All adults are invited to join us on Friday, April 8th in the Gathering Place for the “kickoff” of our Soup Luncheons. We will meet from 11 AM to 1 PM on the second Friday of each month. It will be a time for socialization and sharing of good news while enjoying a hot bowl of soup and a few other goodies to satisfy our spirits. We hope you will consider coming out to participate. The meal will be provided; just show up for some good fellowship and maybe even a few laughs. If you would like transportation, please contact the church office at 716-632-5667. See you there!

B & G

a meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, at 10:00AM for all those interested in helping with our building and grounds upkeep and care.

Men's Group



We are Hybrid again. Meet in the Gathering Space and on Zoom Saturday's at 9:00 AM. Contact the office if you would like to be added to the Men's Group email list.

Also, the Men's Group will be meeting for breakfast at Helen's Kitchen on Monday, April 4th at 7:00 AM.

Rummage Sale

We will be holding a rummage sale at St. John on Saturday June 4, 2022 . The proceeds will be used to help build the new outdoor worship center which will serve as another facility to fellowship and share the gospel. We are asking everyone to start bringing rummage sale donations to the church now. Place all items on the stage in the fellowship hall. We will not be collecting tires, TV's, clothes or computers so please do not drop off these things. You will be kept posted on the details of the rummage sale as planning progresses, but if you have any questions contact Laura Kachelmeyer, Joni Cote or Vikki Hirschey....So start your spring cleaning, clean out your attic and let's prepare for another successful rummage sale.



ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement

Family and friends of Carol Traina, daughter in-law of Rich and Bobbie Traina
Family and Friends of Lynn Hughes, sister of Bobbie Traina
Family and friends of Lauren Taggart

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Marie Palermo, Steve Favale, Deni Krantz, Rachael Mayer, Deb Francis, Marsha Irmer, Bob Tiffany, Wayne Yendall, Gayle Bosch, Merv Moore, Ellen Manthey, Gordon Steinhilber, Jerry Szykowny, Ed Utz, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Ethel Semrau,
Elaine and Syd Small, friends of Marsha Irmer
Jack Hambridge, friend of Laura Kachelmeyer
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Cote
Michelle Newman, friend of Susan Hadala
Marina Neumann, friend of Susan Hadala
Sandra Fritschi, friend of Pam and Ken Figel
Ana Senn, cousin of Rick and Gayle Bosch
Joe and Ginger Ward, friends of Marsha Irmer
Linda Nichols and family, sister in-law of Pat McCarty
Jodi, friend of Mridul Pawlowski
Eugenia Smith, friend of Marie Palermo
Amy Deboth, friend of Iris Reece

For wise governing dealing with world tension in eastern Europe.

Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from world events and natural disasters..

The homeless, hungry, cold and lonely.

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

Military: Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, John Wendelin, Nicholas Ford, Ben Hoyt ,Jacob Roy, 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.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Alan Aquilina	4/1	James Lawida	4/16
Patricia Pancoe	4/2	Michelle Licht	4/16
Susan Rojek	4/3	Millie Webb	4/16
Jill Blake	4/4	Ariana Mullins	4/18
Klansee Bulmer	4/4	Fred Hong	4/22
Mary Cox	4/4	Tom Schugardt	4/22
Alexi Goubski	4/5	James Dryden	4/26
Chris Rainero	4/5	Walter Hadala	4/26
Eric Markarian	4/7	Derek Howe	4/27
Joseph Zahn	4/8	James Steinman	4/27
Gretchen Urbanski	4/13	Jared Steinman	4/27
Nick Santillo	4/13	Sheila Figel	4/27
Timothy Mayer	4/13	Jill Otterstein	4/29
Carter Scorsone	4/14	Madeline Reid	4/30
Andrew Menzies	4/16		

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* | Brittany Grabowski, *Sexton*



St. John Lutheran Church of Amherst
6540 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

716-632-6557 | office@sjlcamherst.com | www.sjlcamherst.com