

The Eagle

**Summer
2021**

ST. JOHN CHURCH SERVANTS

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Permanent Endowment
C.J. Ullrich

Cemetery
Jenn Goehle

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Dear Friends,

I confess that I was not ready to pastor a church through a pandemic.

In seminary, we tried to prepare ourselves to be ready for anything and everything. In the classroom by day and around bonfires at night we shared holy conversations about what ministry might look like in the most extreme circumstances. We talked about hypothetical tragedies, nonsensical violence, wars, shootings, natural disasters, political upheaval... you name it. But for all our discussions we never thought to talk about how to be the church through a plague.

I suspect that's probably true for every other area of life too.

I doubt many business owners opened shop with a "break glass in case of global pandemic" plan. We know many restaurants found themselves flatfooted and trapped. Educational institutions from preschools through grad schools had to "build the planes as they flew them." I doubt nursing home staff members were prepared to turn spouses and children away from their loved ones for months on end. I doubt ICU nurses were prepared to be surrogate loved ones for those who did not wish to die alone. We know that everyone who lost someone in the last year, whether it was Covid or something else, was not ready to say goodbye.

And, I think that's part of what made this last year and a half so difficult...

we weren't ready.

Truth be told, I'm not all that sure we're really ready for much of anything we pretend to be so prepared for. I mean, seriously, is really possible to prepare for tragedy, calamity, or disaster? We might know the rug is about to be pulled from under us, but is that information enough to keep us from falling? Will that make the fall hurts less? My guess is... probably not.

*"Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." -Jesus
Matthew 25:13*

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

Camden Styn baptized on 6/13/21.

Ethan & Everett Burd
Baptized on 6/19/21

Abigail Madison Manning
baptized on 7/4/21



In scripture, Jesus frequently tells his disciples to, "Be ready." He does so both in parables and outright. In fact, themes of readiness and preparedness saturate the scriptures.

*"Keep awake; watch at all times."
1 Peter 5:8*

In general, scripture teaches us to be ready. We should note, however, that the readiness we are called to is not one that prevents us from being harmed or hurt. In scripture being ready does not shield one from life's storms or global pandemics. Moreover, being ready does not promise protection from tragedies or pain. Rather, the readiness we are called to is a readiness to receive Jesus and a readiness to respond.

No one was ready for the pandemic, not me and dare I say, not our church either, but were ready to respond. The next question is, are we ready to respond to what is next? (Trust me, it might not be a pandemic but there will be something next.) Will we be light for those who dwell in darkness? Will we hoard for ourselves or feed the hungry? Will we speak out against tyranny and injustice or retreat? Will we serve and sacrifice or live selfishly and lavishly? Are we ready to respond with forgiveness when necessary? With compassion when it is called for? With mercy for those in need?

Speaking of readiness, I lament and marvel at what is happening in Miami, FL. I lament the collapse of that condo and the possibility that it might have been avoided. I think it is safe to say NO ONE was ready for that. NO ONE. But I marvel at how quick some people were ready to respond. I marvel at their readiness to respond with fortitude, courage, sacrifice, and resilience. That readiness to respond is ultimately what we as Christians are called to do as a part of our everyday life.

Keep awake, Jesus says. Keep Watch, he reiterates. Be ready to respond.

May we be ready to respond with prayers, ready to respond with praise, and, like our ancestors through the centuries, may we be ready to respond with enduring faithfulness and courage.

In the Way, PSDH

Women's Ministry

The Women's Chat Group at St. John will begin to meet in-person on Saturdays this summer. We will gather at 10:00AM outdoors when the weather permits and in the Gathering Space on yucky weather days.



Men's Ministry

SJLC Men meet in-person on Saturdays at 10:00AM and will resume Tuesday Zoom meetings in the fall. If you have any questions contact Rick B. at rickseab@gmail.com

The July Men's Monthly Monday Morning Breakfast will be held at Helen's Kitchen (Transitowne plaza) on **Monday, July 12th at 7:00AM.**

COUNCIL UPDATE

The June meeting of the church council was held on June 22nd at 7:00PM via Zoom. After the agenda and minutes were approved, Pastor led devotions and prayed focusing on the 23rd psalm. Pastor Scott then reported on the month's baptisms and memorial service. He noted that worship will continue to be held in a hybrid format (inside/outside, in-person/online). First Communion will be scheduled in the fall to accommodate busy summer schedules. And, that at home visitation will pick up this summer. To schedule a visit with pastor please email pastor or call the office.

The committees offered the following reports...

Social Ministry – We resumed serving at Friends of Night People on June 7th. Socks, blankets, and toiletry items were donated to them. Tiger's Den donations continue to be provided as well.

Fellowship and Welcome – The women's and men's group will continue to meet in-person weekly through the summer. We are seeking a new time for the women to meet. An adult picnic is planned for Friday, June 25 at Walden Pond, Lancaster. We are exploring more ways to increase fellowship throughout the summer and beyond.

Youth – We hope to hold a monthly event for our youth throughout the summer.

Building and Grounds – Many thanks to those who helped fill the dumpster with the debris from the basement as well as debris dumped over years at the northeast corner of the parking lot. It is looking good!

Mutual Ministry – A meeting is scheduled for June 23rd with Pastor.

Cemetery Committee – Plans continue for the Cremation Garden project.

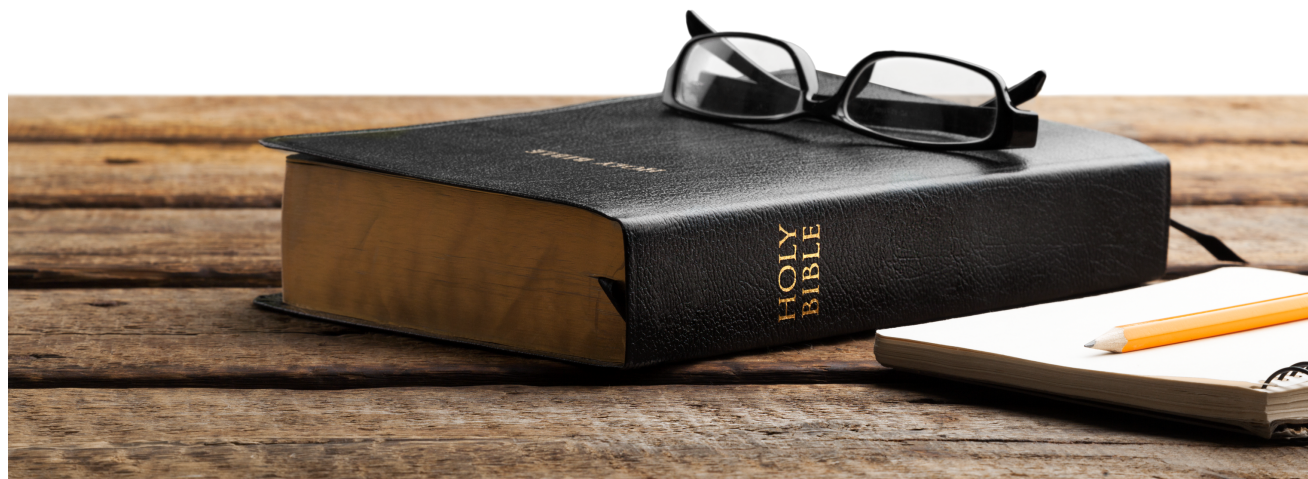
Financial Report – Currently, our annual revenue exceeds expenditures by \$29,000. This may be credited to vacant staff positions and PPP loan that has covered salary. The May offering was about \$5,000 lower than budget. It was noted that giving at outdoor services is sporadic because collection is not centrally organized. The fees on internet giving so far in 2021 are about \$400.

Personnel – There was discussion of the plan to have a Contemporary Music Leader and a Traditional Music Leader with neither designated as Music Director. A motion was made and unanimously approved to hire Elena Erokhina as the Contemporary Music Leader and Cindy Lin as the Traditional Music Leader.

In the business portion of the meeting building rentals were discussed. Following a discussion from the health and safety team a motion was made and approved to allow our groups and ministry partners to use the facility. Additionally, we will rent out to friends and family for private events.

The meeting concluded with Lord's Prayer at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully,
Lee Dryden



Staff Updates



Elena Erokhina
Contemporary Music Leader



Cindy Lin
Traditional Music Leader

All Music Ministry members and those interested in participating in future worship are invited to informal meet and greet with Elena, Cindy and Pastor Scott, on Sunday August 15th immediately following worship.

Eagle Scouts



Boy Scout Troop 457 welcomes it's newest Eagle Scouts, Nick Masi, left, Sandeep Karunaratne, Joel Scime, Jesse Costello, Sean Foley, Jacob Molnar. and Spencer McNamara Beatty. Also earning Eagle Status were Carter Pniewski and Lucas VanDuz.

Ageless Adventures...

The Welcoming/Fellowship Committee invites all adults in the congregation to join us in Island Park for a brown bag picnic lunch on **Friday, July 9th, 2021 from 11AM to 1PM.**

Island Park is located in the Village of Williamsville behind the Town Hall and Library on Main Street, near the intersection of Main Street and Cayuga Road. There is a large parking lot that can be entered from Cayuga Road.

We hope you can join us. Please bring a folding chair, a beverage, and a brown bag lunch.

Our committee has been working hard to create a new opportunity for adults of St John to interact socially at locations other than the church. We have plans in the works, for the months of August, September and October. We are excited to bring you on board. We would also like to get input from each of you.

There is no need to RSVP. Just show up, and be prepared to have a good time socializing and enjoying each other's company.



Hope to see you there.
For further information,
feel free to call or email

Judy Nitchke
using the church directory ([click here](#)).

F E L L O W S H I P

Homeless Veteran Collection Update

The people of St. John certainly know how to show their care, compassion and generosity to those in need. 162 Tops gift cards were donated and delivered to the VA Homeless Veterans Center located at 1325 Main St. in Buffalo. The director of the center was most appreciative. The cards will be given to clients as needed while they receive counseling, healthcare and housing assistance in an effort to improve their daily lives and living situations. Red, white and blue - you sure came through! Thank you to everyone who donated. You know how to make a difference.

Pam Figel and the Social Ministry Committee



Retired Clergy Spotlight: Pastor Nancy Milleville



Well... I'm headed to my 50th high school reunion this month (August)! That will tell you I graduated from high school in 1971. Although I was born in Germany (an Army brat), I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am the oldest of 4 children. My next oldest brother is 8 years younger than I, so psychologists will tell you that I was really raised as an only child. Following graduation, I left Grand Rapids for a good Lutheran college in Minnesota, Gustavus Adolphus. After 2 years and some frustration with the elementary education department, I took a year off to work for the Lutheran church as a Youth Staffer in the New England Synod. That brought me to the East Coast and Upsala College (another good Lutheran school!) in New Jersey, from which I graduated.

It was during that year off that I was introduced to the notion that I could become a pastor. Prior to that I knew that I wanted to work in the Church, but I thought the only thing available for me was Director of Christian Education and/or Youth. The Church approved the ordination of women in 1970, but I didn't know that! During my senior year in college, I discovered that I really didn't like teaching, so my career goals took an about face. Suddenly, I was applying to go to seminary in Philadelphia! Four years later I was called to serve at St. John's in Elma and ordained there in 1980.

I met my "Ever-Lovin'" the next year while attending a worship conference in Columbus, Ohio. He was a church organist in Dayton. We decided to get married in order to reduce our phone bills (that's when you paid for long distance!) and because he had a microwave, a rare thing back then!! We married in 1982 and moved into the parsonage in Elma. It was a few years later that Randy decided to test out seminary. So now he jokingly says that I'm the original Pastor Milleville and he's the new and improved version! We have never served together because I never wanted to be seen as his assistant and in a male dominated Church then (and in some ways, even now) I was afraid that's the role I'd be relegated to.

I have served 3 congregations in Western NY, St. John's, Elma; Ascension, Amherst; and Crossroads, Amherst. I did a stint as the conference dean when Pastor Scott was called to St. John! I retired in 2016 and told my husband that I was going to Arizona for the winter and he was welcome to come and visit! He didn't retire for a couple more years but was able to spend a good bit of time with me each winter. We remodeled a park model trailer in Mesa, which had been my parents' winter home for many years. I have come to love the desert and the constant sunshine. It is an active community that we live in, so we are never short on things to do or people to do them with. At this point, we still enjoy driving back and forth and seeing as much of the country as we can in the process. International travel is also frequently on our calendar!

I continue to serve as a supply preacher when in Western NY. In AZ I serve as a very part-time "seasonal" pastor at the Lutheran church just down the road from our park. Beyond that, gardening, travel, knitting, and sewing occupy much of my time.

We have 3 children:

Francien, a.k.a. "Special," is from Liberia. She came to live with us at the age of 15 in 1984. We have never adopted her, but she is as much our child as our natural-born sons are. She is now Dr. "Special", serving as a college professor and private psychologist focusing on immigration/refugee issues. She is married to Abraham and together they have given us 4 granddaughters.

Philip is our firstborn. After high school, he enlisted in the Army and served in Iraq. His transition to civilian life has been difficult. He now lives in the mountains outside of Denver. He is an excellent cook!

Matthew brought up the rear. Upon graduation, he enrolled in community college and received his Associate's degree in criminal justice. He is now living and working in Portland, Oregon.

New Emails and Contact Information

Dear Friends,

Starting September 1st, we will have new emails for our entire staff.

Please save them in your contact list and begin to use them whenever you need to reach any of us.

Pastor - pastorscott@sjlcamherst.com

Sara - office@sjlcamherst.com

Jared - building@sjlcamherst.com

Cindy - cindy@sjlcamherst.com

Elena - elena@sjlcamherst.com

We look forward to hearing from you.



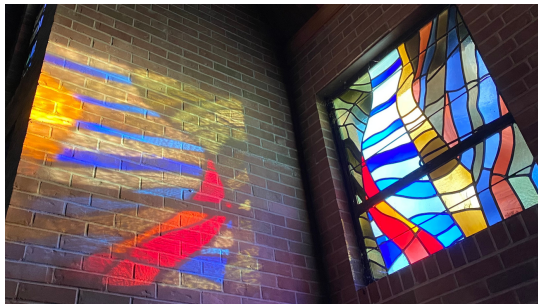
Photos @ St. John



fellowship at walden pond.



good and faithful servants at friends of night people.



baptisms at SJLC



THANK YOU!

Dear Members,

Our sincere appreciation goes out to you for the
We are Tops gift cards.

Your thoughtful donations have enhanced the morale
and well-being of our Veterans. We are indeed
grateful for the unselfish support shown by you to help
our hospitalized Veterans.

Please be assured of our heartfelt gratitude for your
donation. Thank you for your support.

V.A Hospital

Thank you for helping me research my family
history.
Best regards,
Al Langurth



Dear Members.

Thank you so much for your continued support of
the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. Your donation will
help us provide the much-needed supplies over the
summer.

We also use part of your donation to help support
the Tiger's Den vegetable garden here at St. Pauls.
Through generous donations of funds and plants,
we are currently growing tomatoes, potatoes,
peppers, onions, and lettuce that we will share with
our families.

Thank you for being a part of our mission

Sincerely,
Tigers Den Team

The people of St. John certainly know how to
show their care, compassion, and generosity to
those in need. Tops gift cards were donated to the
VA Homeless Veterans Center located at 1325
Main street in Buffalo. The director of the center
was most appreciative. The cards will be given to
clients as needed while they receive counseling,
healthcare, and housing assistance in an effort to
improve daily lives and living situations. Red,
white, and blue- you sure came through! Thank
you to everyone who donated. You know how to
make a difference

Pam Figel and the Social Ministry Committee

I just want to extend my gratitude to you for letting
Schofield use your parking lot for our chicken bbq. The
use of your tables and facility was a huge benefit.

Many blessings!

Linda

JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Henry May	7/1	Ethan Martin	7/17
Robert Stricko	7/3	Wyatt Martin	7/17
Marsha Irmer	7/7	Ginny Hohl	7/18
Klaus Schonrank	7/8	Benjamin Ullrich	7/20
Deni Krantz	7/10	Kate Olson	7/20
Grace Bosch-King	7/10	Erica Stricko	7/23
Linda Tiffany	7/10	Tracy Wylie	7/24
Sherry Slaper	7/10	Olga Ullrich	7/25
Adam Bogart	7/11	Ryan Weber	7/27
Anna Henry	7/12	Randy Markarian	7/28
Kristin Zahn	7/14	David Pawlowski	7/29
Andrew Johnson	7/16	Amy Stohl	7/30
Keith Parker	7/16	Edward Utz	7/31
Robert Stricko	7/16	Mary Koehneke	7/31
Brian Martin	7/17		

		Julie Johnson	8/18
		Christian McMullen	8/19
		Michele Kubik	8/19
		Eric Bogart	8/20
		Lori Schonrank	8/20
		Anne Dehn	8/21
		Jacob Kachelmeyer	8/21
		Joel Hirschey	8/21
		David Steinhilber	8/22
		Sandra Ekberg	8/22
		William Bulmer	8/22
		Nicholas Slaper	8/24
		Donna Moore	8/25
		Lisa Leach	8/25
		Karen Caten	8/27
		Ray Hohl	8/27
		Alaina Szykwny	8/28
		Elizabeth Stohl	8/29
		Penny Favale	8/31
Keegan Kruszynski	8/4		
Kristen Stohl	8/4		
Jennifer Ekberg	8/5		
Elaine Dust	8/6		
Angela Menzies	8/8		
Ryan Boling	8/8		
David Brock	8/9		
Collin Reid	8/10		
David Otterstein	8/10		
Hailey Martin	8/11		
Hannah Martin	8/11		
Leslie Tobia	8/11		
Benjamin Allen	8/12		
Rob Williams	8/13		
David Nitchke	8/14		
Clayton Merlihan	8/15		
Megan Suszynski	8/16		

ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement
Family and Friends of Chester Lynn Wickwire, friend of Pastor Marsha Irmer
Family and Friends of Charlotte Peck, sister in-law of Ginny and Ray Hohl

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

Bertha Fiala, aunt of Deb Francis
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
Mike and Lisa Stang, Relatives of the Nitchke Family
Donald Seefeldt, father of Penny Favale
Debbie Felton, Sister in law of Brian Smith
Rick Yendall, son of Judy and Wayne Yendall.
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
Sandy Williams, sister of Bobbie Traina
Miriam Benson, ex-wife of Jim Olson
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.



O God, source of all goodness: We give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless our schools, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students.

(ELW, pg. 78)



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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