

The Eagle

May
2022

**ST. JOHN
CHURCH COUNCIL
SERVANTS**

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

THE PASTOR'S NOTE...

Dear Friends –

Thank you. Thank you for your ministry. Thank you for volunteering. Thank you for your charity and generosity. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasure. When my own grandfather passed away recently, I was blown away at the countless expressions of sympathy and consolation. Thank you for your concern and care. I thank God for you and for your faithfulness.

At the time of this writing covid remains an ever-present, nagging reality. So many of our people are ill right now and so much of life remains affected by this relentless pandemic. Simultaneously, war continues to rage in Ukraine, the effects of which will be felt for God knows how long. Meanwhile, costs are skyrocketing for many of life necessities and the economic pressures are hitting home for all of us. To make matters worse it is nearly May and there's frost on the ground.

These are tumultuous times we find ourselves caught up in. And so, again I thank you for your continued faith, discipleship and generosity.

As we move forward through all of life's challenges, please know that we need you. Our membership, friends, and volunteers are the lifeblood of this congregation. We could not function without you. Please know that you are appreciated and valued and cherished.

Looking ahead, there are many volunteer opportunities at St. John right now. We are seeking sacristans (those who care for the altar), acolytes, ushers, and sound/video technicians (no experience necessary) to help facilitate our worship. Our building and grounds crew is looking for some younger folks to step in and help with various projects around the church. We have open spots for Sunday School teachers over the next few weeks. And we have some one-time events coming up that will require many hands to make sure the work is 'light' (namely, our rummage sale).

If you're able to help in any way, please contact the church office and we'll connect the dots. In my experience the phrase, "the more the merrier" has never been more spot on than when it comes to our life together in church. We are the body of Christ and we're at our healthiest when we're each doing our part.

So again, thank you for everything. Thank you for all that you've helped with over these last few years. Thank you for your ongoing generosity despite economic uncertainty. Thank you for living out your faith at St. John.

*"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"
Revelation 5:13*

To God be the glory.
PSDH

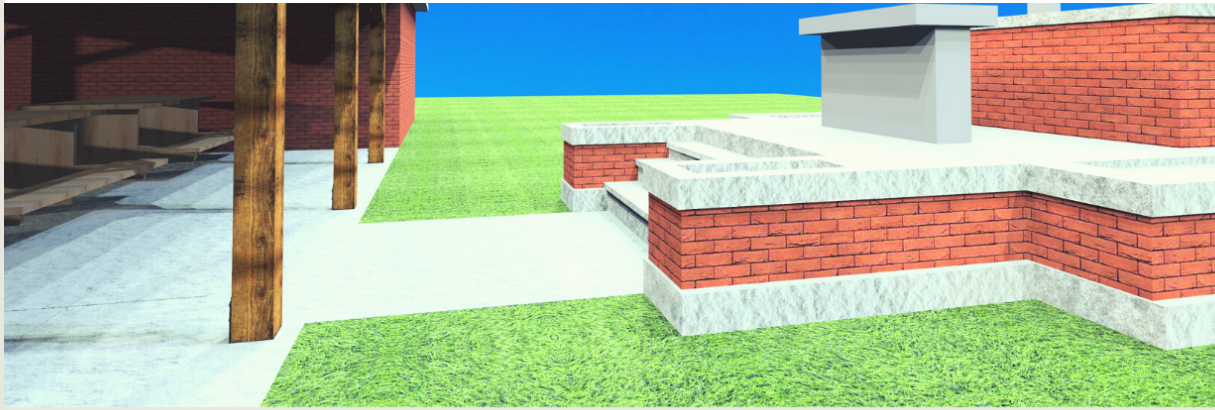


Outdoor Ministry Center Update

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.



BUILDING

BRICK BY BRICK

with your help.

DONOR BRICKS - \$250

MEMORIAL/IN HONOR OF BRICKS - \$275

The altar of the Outdoor Ministry Center will be wrapped in bricks that name those who made this project possible. **Thank you** for your consideration. (see reverse for details)



THE BRICK CAMPAIGN

This brick campaign is intended to demonstrate our congregation's commitment to the OMC project. Beyond that, it will provide initial resources to begin building and potentially reduce the amount of money we borrow from a bank and withdraw from our investments. **Your help and consideration is most sincerely appreciated.** To purchase a brick, please fill out the attached form and return to the church office. Please call (716)632-6557 or email office@sjlcamherst.com with questions.
GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.



Then they said, "Let us arrive and build." So they put their hands to the good work.

Neh. 2:18

COUNCIL UPDATE

The April Council meeting was held on the 19th at 7:00 PM. The meeting began with scripture and prayer. After the minutes were approved and the agenda adopted, Pastor gave his report. Pastor reported on the many happenings at St. John including youth nights, an Easter egg hunt, and the fundraiser for Ukraine. Pastor noted that in-person worship attendance has been steadily increasing. Pastor Scott presided at a committal at our cemetery last month and supply preached at Amherst Lutheran because they are without a called pastor. Finally, Pastor shared that his grandfather had passed and that Pastor Greene would be covering pastoral care items for a couple of days while Pastor Scott spends time with family.

The committees offered the following reports...

Social Ministry – We are wrapping up our collection for Haven House the week after Easter.

Fellowship – A new women’s lunch group is starting in May. We are resuming our luncheons in the park in May as well (location TBD).

Worship and Music – The committee met and affirmed what has been working in our worship. We hope to increase congregational singing and have some ideas to help facilitate that. We will worship at 8:30 & 10:30 through May and return to one service at 9:30 for the summer months. We approved spending \$2,000 on equipment to help live stream worship (we have been borrowing cameras, cables, etc. from Larry King – thank you, Larry!). We require more sound and video volunteers to lighten the burden placed on a few people.

Personnel – Brittany Grawbowski has started her work in the position of the sexton.

Christian Education – Sunday School will continue for the next few weeks culminating with a Sunday Funday on May 22nd. Many thanks to those who’ve stepped up to teach recently including Kate Hannon and Molly Ullrich.

Youth – Middle School youth continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

Building and Grounds – a Boy Scout clean-up day is scheduled for May 8th.

Finance – Money was sent and received by the bunker in Ukraine. The finances, both income and expenses, are on track with the budget. Our 2023 envelopes have been purchased.

Mutual Ministry – The committee met to address some concerns and stress factors that have emerged as we continue to ‘rebuild’ after two+ years of the pandemic. We encouraged transparency, honesty, Christian love, and increased communication as we move forward. We hope the Council and committees will redouble their efforts as we venture forward.

Permanent Endowment – Our management fee has been reduced to 0.40%. A withdrawal of up to \$100,000 has been approved for the construction of the Outdoor Ministry Center.

In the business portion of the meeting, it was noted that the Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for May 1st 8 AM-noon.

The meeting concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.



Members of St. John

We would like to thank you for your donation of \$50.00 to the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. Due to your generosity, we were able to keep our shelves full with much needed products for the families in our areas.

We adapted to the growing need of our refugee community, expanded the pantry to accommodate the increased need, and through people like you, kept the pantry open throughout the Covid Pandemic. Thank you!



A heart felt thank you for all your thoughts and prayers during these last couple of months concerning the death of our Daughter-in-Law, Carol and Bobbie's sister, Lynn. Also thank you for the prayer cross.

Rich and Bobbie Traina

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Dear, ST JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF AMHERST

Volunteer association "TrioLock" expresses its gratitude for the sponsorship in organizing a bomb shelter in the city of Kyiv.

The successful implementation of the security of Ukrainian citizens from Russian aggression would not have been possible without your help. Due to your support, 350 people in the bomb shelter in Kyiv were able to receive food, clothing and comfort for a whole month.

We wish you, your team and your parishioners of "ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMHERST" good health, happiness, success in your humanitarian work and prosperity of your church. God bless you 🙏

Sincerely,
Volunteers from the company "TrioLock".



2022,04,11



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH BIENNIAL

Rummage Sale!

We've got it all!

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022
8AM- 9AM \$2 EARLY BIRD
9AM -2:30 PM NAME YOUR PRICE SALE
2:30-3:00 PM BAG SALE- \$2.00 & \$5.00
BAGS AVAILABLE
6540 MAIN ST. | WILLIAMSVILLE, NY

Here's what we're selling: furniture, books, dvds, toys, tools, holiday items, yard care tools, trinkets, collectibles, hidden treasure & MORE!
Treasures donated by 200 families, DON'T MISS THIS SALE!

Proceeds from this sale will be used toward our Outdoor Ministry Center to benefit our community.



Women's Lunch Brunch



The newly formed "Women's Lunch Bunch" will have their first luncheon on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 11:30 at Santora's Pizza and Pub Grill, 7800 Transit Rd. (near Sheridan Dr.). A sign-up sheet will soon be up. Any questions call or text Donna Moore at 716-208-1071.

We are accepting donations in the fellowship hall the whole month of May
You can drop stuff off in the fellowship hall during office hours. Please contact the church with any questions.

Brown Bag Lunches



Soup luncheon have ended. We will go back to brown bag lunches in park.

We will meet at a park on the second of every month, weather permitting. We will be meeting this month on Friday, May 13th, 2022. Location to be determined. More information will be available soon.

BJ's Membership

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

For details please contact the church office.



ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger is encouraging your congregation's support by meeting a challenge goal of \$500 between now and June to purchase a **Holy Cow**.

One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of milk each day, food and fertilizer. Please consider making a donation between now and the assembly June 5-7.

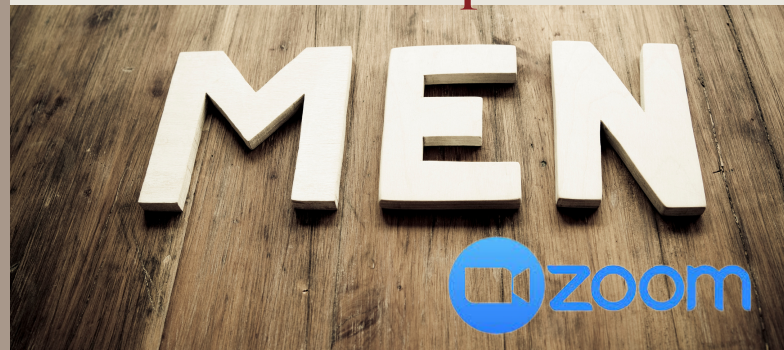
Altar Help



We will need help with preparing the Altar for Communion. What we will need help for is to fill the communion cups up, or clean up after the 8:30 service. If you can help please reach out to Joni Cote, she regularly helps us with this and would know more information.

Joni Cote: pokerjoni1956@gmail.com

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, May 2nd at 7:00 AM.



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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



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*



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