



St. John
Lutheran Church

Discover Joy. Share Love. Grow Faith.

June
2021

The Eagle

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Summer Worship Plans

Dear Friends,

As we continue to navigate this pandemic (and dare I say transition back to some sort of normal), our worship will continue to evolve and be provided in a variety of forms. This summer we will worship in-person at 9:30AM on a weekly basis. When it is possible, we will worship outside. When the weather does not cooperate, we will worship indoors with the windows and doors open.

While worshipping outdoors, please bring lawn chairs if you are able. Chairs will also be provided for anyone who needs one. We are still experimenting with the right location on our 5-acre lot to worship. We appreciate your patience and flexibility while we seek out the ideal space. Restroom facilities are available indoors. The main glass doors and back gray doors will be unlocked. On weeks we are outdoors we will require extra hands before and after worship to set up and take down equipment. If you are able to help, please contact the church office.

Additionally, weekly worship resources will continue to be made available through the summer. We hope you will take advantage of them if you are not yet comfortable returning to worship, are home sick or under the weather, or on the road.

From the beginning of this pandemic, we have listened to science and followed the guidelines put out by the CDC and local health departments. Following recent updates and recommendations, the church council has approved that vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks inside of the facility, while unvaccinated individuals are still required to wear masks. Vaccinated individuals may still choose to wear masks.

While reaching this decision, concern was expressed that people may experience shame or criticism for either opting to wear a mask or opting to not wear a mask. Please leave any shame, criticism, finger-pointing, and drama at home. If you're unable to leave your house without it, please watch the online worship resource from home. This world is tough enough as it is. Let's do our part to ensure our sanctuary is a safe, peaceful, and joyous place.

The psalmist writes, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1) As we slowly transition back to in-person worship and ministry let us do so with a spirit of gratitude, gentleness, and gladness.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Scott

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

Psalm 122

*I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand within thy gates,
O Jerusalem.*

*Jerusalem is builded as a city
that is compact together:*

*Whither the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
unto the testimony of Israel,*

to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

*For there are set thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.*

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
they shall prosper that love thee.*

*Peace be within thy walls,
and prosperity within thy palaces.*

For my brethren and companions' sakes,

I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Because of the house of the Lord our God

I will seek thy good.

First Communion

First Communion will be celebrated this Summer at St. John. If you are interested in having your child receive the sacrament of Holy Communion please contact Pastor Scott by June 15, 2021. Once we have a list of participants we will schedule the classes and ceremony. If you have questions, please contact Pastor.



Chicken Dinner Fundraiser for Schofield Home Health Services



On Friday, June 4th a DRIVE THRU Chicken Dinner will be held in the church parking lot. Tickets are \$13 or two dinners for \$25.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Schofield's Home Health Services, offering rehabilitation therapy, nursing and home health aides to Erie and Niagara county residents. Schofield Home Health is a part of Schofield Care, a not-for-profit, community-based organization serving more than 700 individuals a week in home care, adult day health care, rehabilitation and long term nursing care.

Passages

Eleanor Cox was baptized on May 2 | Jeffrey Pidgeon was baptized on May 22
Lily Shanley was baptized on May 29.

Oaklie Zdrojewski, Eli Pawlowski, Nicholas Panaro, Matthew Panaro, Presley Merlihan, and Jillian Goehle were confirmed on May 23.

Brian Hirschey and Amanda Zawadski were married on May 1.

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 in person on Saturdays at 10 A.M and via Zoom on Tuesday's at 7 P.M

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



COUNCIL UPDATE - MAY MEETING

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order shortly after 7PM. Pastor led devotions that included prayers for our sick and grieving. The agenda was approved. The minutes were slightly amended and approved.

The first order of business was a discussion of worship guidelines in light of new CDC recommendations that masks are not required for vaccinated persons. A motion to allow vaccinated individuals to not mask and require unvaccinated individuals to mask was passed.

Pastor reported that he performed 2 baptisms, 6 confirmations, and 1 wedding. Looking ahead... first communion will be held this summer, worship will continue to evolve, and synod assembly is next week. Pastor asked for prayers as our synod elects a new bishop.

The committees offered the following reports...

Social Ministry: The recent collection to support the food pantry, Friends of Night People, and homeless veterans was a success. Items will still be collected for the next few weeks. We will resume volunteer service at Friends of Night People on June 7th.

Worship and Music: Many thanks are extended to Rick Bosch, Larry King, and Roy Lewis for their time and effort producing our worship services.

Youth: The search continues for a qualified youth director.

Building and Grounds: Looking ahead we should be prepared to seal the parking lot in 2022 for roughly \$4,500. Haller House roof contributions are currently \$1,000 short. An official rental agreement was signed with Lutheran Charities for use of office space for \$500/month. We are partnering with the Arc of Erie County to provide space for one of their groups on weekdays beginning in June.

Cemetery: 8 trees were planted and a design firm has been contacted to help plan the Cremation Garden.

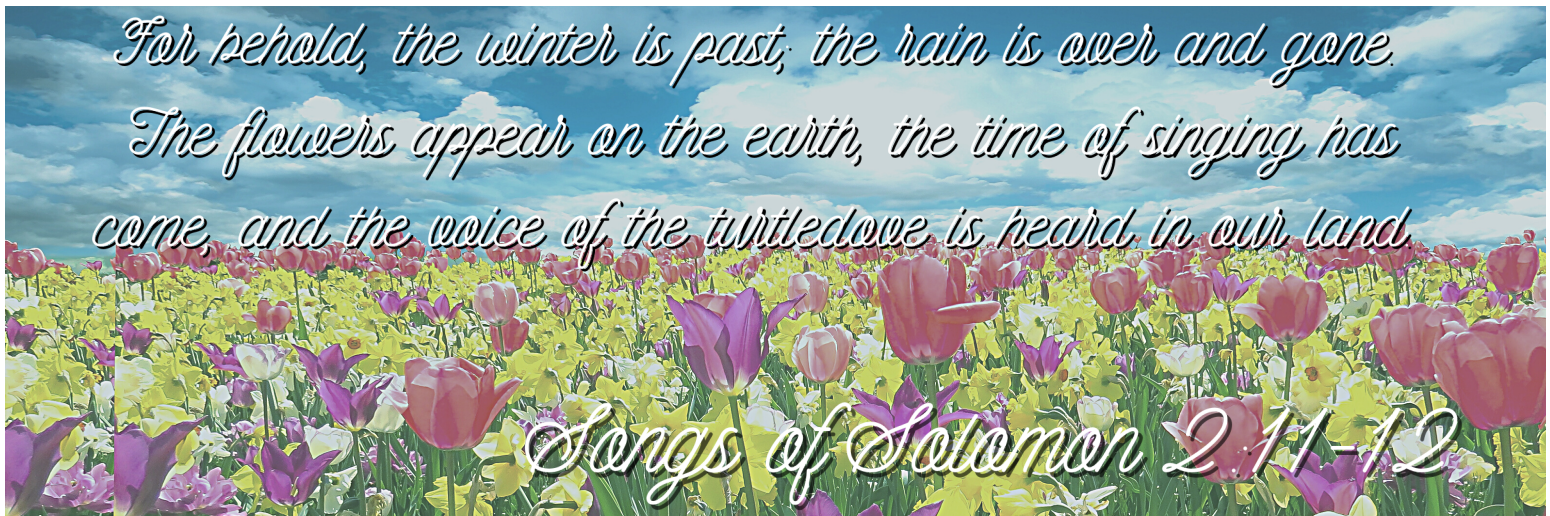
Finance: We are in good shape. Currently, our revenue exceeds our expenses. April was a strong month for giving. Our second PPP forgiveness paperwork will be filed in July.

Personnel: It is time for a probationary review of our new administrative assistant. Dawn has returned from her leave of absence. A discussion was held concerning Dawn and Cindy alternating weeks. The council confirmed that both will work weekly on Sunday morning. Changes in job expectations is subject to discussion with the personnel and worship and music committees.

The summer council meetings will be held on June 22nd and August 17th. The meeting adjourned at 8:21PM.

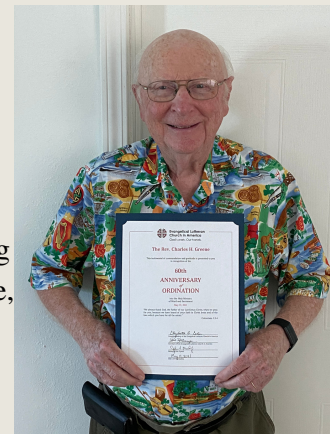
Respectfully,

Lee Dryden



RETIRED PASTOR'S SPOTLIGHT

REV. CHARLIE GREENE



I grew up in Greece, a suburb of Rochester, NY and went to Barnard School in Greece from Kindergarten through 8th grade, walking the half mile from home most days and serving as a crossing guard in 7th and 8th grade. From there I went to John Marshall High School in Rochester. At the time, there were no high schools in Greece. Starting at age 8, I had no hobbies, but I began my career as a baseball fan by going to Rochester Red Wings games. (I now own 4 shares of stock in the team.) After graduating from JMHS, I attended Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. While in H.S., I was the sports editor of the school paper and at Oberlin I was a sports writer for the college paper. I also did a stint as an overnight disc jockey on the college radio station. My morning sign-off was "Wake Up Little Suzie" by the Everly Brothers.

Starting in 8th grade, I decided I wanted to be a newspaper sports writer, but was discouraged by a highly respected reporter for the Rochester Times Union paper. Then, I thought I wanted to go into government service, but volunteered with some disreputable politicians in Ohio and decided that career was not for me. All during these times, I kept thinking, "You should study for the ordained ministry." During the summer after my sophomore year at Oberlin, I told my parents that God had shut the door to my ideas and I would plan to go to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. After graduating from Oberlin and 3 years later from LTSP, I was ordained in Albany and accepted a call to serve as Assistant Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in New Hyde Park, Long Island, New York.

One year later, the Senior Pastor accepted a call to serve in the Board of Parish Education of the national church. Back then, if the senior pastor resigned, the whole staff had to resign, so I was out of work for one month before being called to be the Associate Pastor at St. David's Lutheran Church in Massapequa Park, L I, NY. During my 10 years at St. David's, we never had fewer than 525 seventh through twelfth graders with confirmation classes of 90-plus students. I was responsible for the youth ministry among the congregational youth and about 250 non-church-related teenagers in the community who hung out near the church. That was where I gained the reputation of being able to work with young people.

As a result, I received and accepted a call to serve as the first full-time Director of Youth Ministry for the Niagara Frontier Conference on April 1, 1971. One of my responsibilities was to publish a monthly youth ministry newsletter which was God's way of using my interest in newspaper writing. Also, for 18 years, I was the producing/host of a live TV talk show on what is now Spectrum cable. The purpose of the program was to give teenagers a chance to perform talents they have and talk about subjects of interest or concern to them. It was a positive program to contrast with the bad news about young people that often appeared in local papers. During half of those same years in the summer, I was the program director at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Camp including leading Senior High Week at the end of every summer and also served on the Upstate New York Synod Committee on Youth Ministry.

In the spring of 1989, I received and accepted a call to serve as the Pastor at Amherst Lutheran Church in Amherst where I served until retiring on June 1, 2001. After retiring and becoming a member of St. John Lutheran Church, I have served as the Visitation Pastor for our congregation calling and visiting mostly senior members of the church.

For the past 11 years, my wife and I have spent 5 months at our home in West Melbourne, Florida, and the rest of the year at our house in Buffalo. I walk over 5 miles every day, about 1/3 with our collie Mimzie, and look forward to going to Toronto Blue Jays baseball games in Buffalo as long as they are playing here. We have had season tickets to the Bisons games for 29 years and have traveled with the team to every city with a team in the League prior to the Covid shut-down last year. For 20 of those years, I served as the President of the Bisons Booster Club of which I was a founding member. We look forward to going to Bisons games when the Blue Jays are able to return to Toronto.

Lutheran Charities

Chiavetta's Drive Thru

Chicken BBQ

St. John Lutheran Church
6540 Main St.

Williamsville, NY 14221

Wednesday June 23, 2021

3PM- 7PM (Or Sold Out)



\$12 PRESALE, \$13 DAY OF



WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Dear St. John,

Thanks to your incredible generosity we were able to send over \$1,000 to ELCA World Hunger. [CLICK HERE](#) to see one example of how your offerings are put to work in the world.

Well done, good and faithful servants.



PEACE NOT WALLS...

...is the name of the branch of the ELCA Advocacy ministry that works for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel. In the news lately, you have undoubtedly seen the renewal of hostilities between the two. Regardless where your sympathies lie, the ELCA accompanies both to promote respect for human rights, reconciliation, and peace. ELCA's primary companion in this work is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the two church bodies are members of the Lutheran World Federation.

In recent weeks, the Israeli government has made plans to remove Palestinians from their own homes in East Jerusalem so Israelis can live there. Even though

Israel has made very positive progress on COVID vaccinations, very few Palestinians have had the opportunity to get it, and COVID deaths in Gaza and the West Bank have been disproportionately high. During the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Israeli security forces impeded access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and even attacked worshippers. Rockets have destroyed entire neighborhoods in Gaza, while Israel's sophisticated defense system prevents most of the damage from Palestinian weapons. These events are in addition to the decades-long military incursions, restrictions on movement, limited access to worship, health care, education, farmland, and clean water. Of course, there has been damage and death on the Israel side too, but significantly less.

ELCA Advocacy brings these situations to light so that we can express our concern to our elected officials, so that we can pray for solutions, so that we can knowledgeably discuss the issues. Peace Not Walls exists because of your mission support. Thank you!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

- Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter, Upstate NY Synod

Prayers for the Upcoming Bishop's Election

Almighty God, grant to your church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name abide to the end; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

O God, through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

AMEN!

ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST



St. John Prayer List

Hospitalized and Homebound
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement

Family and Friends of Linda and Michael Allen, friends of the Allen Family
Family and Friends of Sandra Friedfertig, friend of Marsha Irmer

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

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
Lynn and Barbara Wickwire, friends of Marsha Irmer
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.
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
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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Stricko	6/3		
Christine Bosch	6/3	Jamie Favale	6/17
Jeremy Schregel	6/7	Eli Pawlowski	6/18
Dennis Goubski	6/9	Alexander Hong	6/19
Kristen Silveri	6/10	Fran Kaye	6/19
Owen Zdrojewski	6/10	Sandy Stricko	6/20
Jennifer Goehle	6/11	Brian Hirschey	6/23
Rachael Mayer	6/11	Daniel Kutis	6/24
Rich Traina	6/13	Andrew Scorsone	6/25
Scott Hannon	6/13	Angelika Fronczak	6/25
Blake Gerstung	6/14	Deb Francis	6/26
Shirleen Kowalczyk	6/15	Dylan Parker	6/27



STAFF

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



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