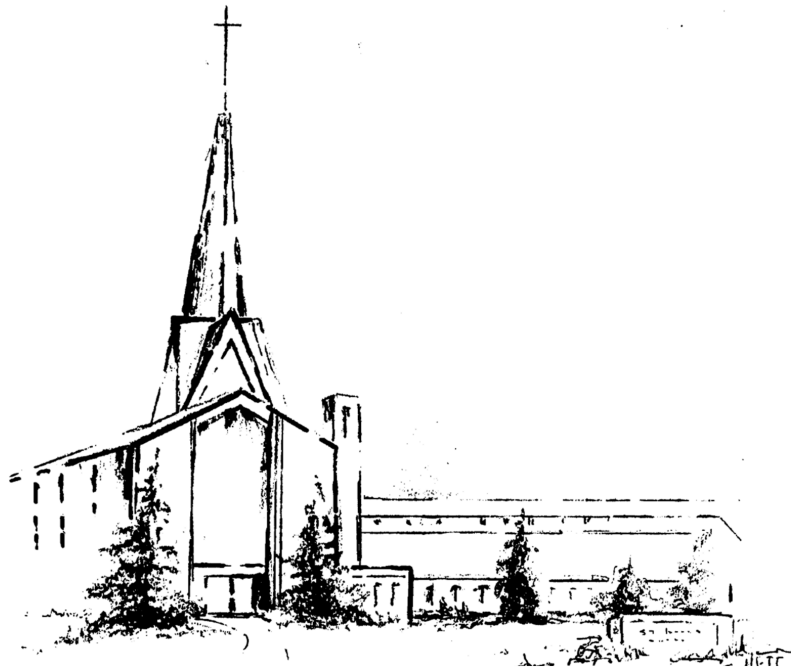


# **St. John's Journal**

## **Spring/Summer 2022 Issue**



**Encountering, Connecting,  
Responding to Jesus Christ.**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

**Poughkeepsie, New York 12603  
(845) 452-1550  
[www.stjohnselc.org](http://www.stjohnselc.org)**

**Sunday Worship Service  
Schedule**

**9:00 AM Contemporary Worship  
10:30 AM Traditional Worship**

**Church Council**

**Pastor Jeffrey Koenig**  
**Bob Knapp**- President  
**Lee Pagonos** - Vice-President  
**Dave Hawkinson**- Secretary  
**Art Upright**- Treasurer  
**Mary Heller** – Worship  
**Kaitlin Feldweg** – Discipleship  
**Karen Olson** – Fellowship  
**Sue van Oss** – Ministry  
**James Swart**-Evangelism

**Mission Team Chairs**

**John Dux**- Adult Ministry MT  
**Sandy Sherwood**-Children's Ministry MT  
**Doug Ohlandt**-Communications MT  
**Susan Lamberton**- Evangelism MT  
(No chair) Finance & Admin. MT  
**Mark Decker**- Financial Secretary  
**No Co-Secretary**  
**Jackie Boccio** - Hospitality MT  
**Janice Viola**- Parish Care MT  
**No Chair** -Property MT  
**Abby Dux & Linda Haas Manley**-  
Social Ministry MT  
**Steve Jones** - Stewardship MT  
**Anne Christmas**-Worship & Music MT  
**No Chair** -Youth Ministry MT

**St. John's Staff & Journal Volunteers**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jeffrey Koenig  
**Deacon:** Richard Ferolito  
**Director of Music:** Patrick Walker  
**Director of Lay Ministry:** Jeanne Jones  
**Contemporary Worship Music Leader**  
**Office Manager:** Maggie Jack-Carrington  
**Bookkeeper:** Alison Schlak  
**Editor & Layout:** Abby Triebel

**St. John's  
Church Council**

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Portrait grid (top to bottom, left to right):  
 1. Pastor Jeffrey Koenig  
 2. Art Upright  
 3. Lee Pagonos  
 4. Bob Knapp  
 5. Karen Olson  
 6. Kaitlin Feldweg  
 7. Dave Hawkinson  
 8. James Swart  
 9. Susan van Oss  
 10. Mary Heller

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Rejoicing in the sovereignty of the resurrected Christ is easy for us. After all, we're Christians! But it hasn't always been that simple. It's easy to forget that there has always been debate about the nature of Jesus, such as whether he was really resurrected, or whether he and God were of the same substance. While it may seem as though the people who lived at the time of the resurrection would have a clearer vision about it, that was not necessarily true.

Illustrative is the account of Mary Magdalene having had an audience with Tiberius shortly after Jesus' ascension into heaven. With an egg in her hand as object lesson, Mary explained to the Emperor the story of the resurrection. Tiberius was unmoved, replying that Christ was no more resurrected than the egg in Mary's hand was red. In that instant, the egg miraculously turned quite red—and Tiberius was convinced!

Scholars of the day remarked about that interaction and the resulting legislation that Tiberius sought in order to officially deify Christ. For instance: Eusebius, a Christian scholar and historian (260-339 A.D.) wrote: *"They say that Tiberius referred the matter to the Senate, but that they rejected it, ostensibly because they had not first examined into the matter, for an ancient law prevailed that no one should be made a god by the Romans except by a vote and decree of the Senate..."* Also, Tertullian (155-220 A.D.) noted that *"...there was an old decree that no god should be consecrated by a general without the approval of the Senate....among you (Romans) divinity is weighed out by human caprice. Unless a god shall have been acceptable to men, he shall not be a god."*

Epistemological problems aside, it is fascinating that people always have, and probably always will, only believe what they want to believe—or, more specifically, what they can comprehend. In a strange way, it's helpful that the Roman lawmakers refused to allow Jesus to be given the title of "God"—at least we know that humanity's propensity toward a lack of faith in the mystery of our Lord is not a *new* thing.

Next week, as we celebrate the Ascension for the almost 1,989<sup>th</sup> time, consider the obvious folly of the Romans way back then, and then reflect a bit—where are you, on the spectrum of mystery? Are you content with leaving certain things in God's hands? ...leaving *everything* in God's hands? As you enter into this beautiful time of Spring and Summer, take a quiet moment in the warm sunshine to rejoice in the fact that Jesus *knew* we wouldn't ever totally understand what he did—and that is precisely why he did it! And: take rest in the fact that we literally don't have to know it all, or control it all. God has it all—in the palm of one hand. Hey: Feel that sun on your face?

That's God at work, too!

Rev. Jeff Koenig

**Happy Spring!**

I hope all the snow is done and we can enjoy the spring and summer seasons.

We made it through Holy Week and Easter and are looking to a slower time. Spring is a great time, the flowers start to grow and the trees start to leaf. This is God taking out his paintbrush and amazing us with His artwork. It always amazes me when this happens. I know that God is in charge, since none of us can make a tree or a flower grow. We plant the seeds and water them, and then we put them in God's hands.

Just like the farmer, you have to think of the faith he has in God to make his crops grow. Nothing he can do can make the crops grow; it is all God's doing. God gives the farmer the tools to till the soil and plant the seeds, and then He takes over and it grows in God's time, not ours.

Just like when we have someone in our lives that we want to tell what God has done for us. We tell the person what God has told us in the stories of the Bible, we plant the seeds, and we wait until God waters them. Sometimes we never see the fruition of our plantings, but God will, as He waters them and ignites the Holy Spirit in that person. God needs us to go around planting those seeds wherever we can, to spread the Word of God to those who do not know God, so that they can see what God can do in their lives. They just need a little push and then see, if they have faith, where it will lead them. It is amazing what God does for us, and we need to thank Him for all that He does. So remember to be like Johnny Appleseed and spread that seed of faith and let God water it.

Your Servant in Christ,

Deacon Rich

**A messy living room means Worship Matters...**

My husband, Steve, came into our living room and could hardly find a place to walk as there were papers on nearly every flat surface. "She's at it again," he thought as he maneuvered his way through the piles to the couch. This scene was quite familiar, as every month I get out bins of music and I think, I sort and I hum my way through selecting music for the contemporary worship services in the upcoming month. I can spend hours scouring those bins as well as hunting on the CCLI site (where I get new music), in search of ideal songs that represent the theme and readings for each Sunday. I am quite sure that Patrick (St. John's music director & organist for the 10:30





am worship service) spends his fair share of time on that music as well, (although I bet his living room isn't as disastrous as mine!) Why do we do that? ***Because worship matters.***

Altar Guild ("Worship Prep Team" as I call it) works hard to be sure all is ready for communion and that the ambiance of worship: banners, flowers and candles, have all been attended to in a way that shows honor and reverence to God. Why do they do that? ***Because worship matters.***

The office staff spends about 50% or more of the time during the week, creating, editing, proofing, revising and printing the bulletin we use for worship. Why do we do all that? ***Because worship matters.***

Volunteers start the carillon (bells), so they ring just prior to the start of the service, inviting people to join the congregation in worship. The ushers turn up the lights at the beginning of the service to draw focus to the altar/ cross and then turn them down again as a signal to exit worship with renewed faith, ready to share God's love. I could go on with examples of behind the scenes work that is done to assure that the worship experience at St. John's is meaningful and honoring. However, perfection is never the goal nor is worship viewed as some sort of show we put on each week. Worship is a unique connection with God and when we worship in community, it is a connection with one another; a unifying activity as we corporately worship as ONE. The leadership at St. John's puts a high priority on worship and puts much effort into its creation ***because worship matters.***

Certainly, acts of Christian service, disciplines such as Bible study & prayer as well as care and concern for others, are ways we live out the beliefs we profess, and help us express our faith in tangible ways. Such responses are worthy of our time and pleasing to God. However, it is even more important to simply sit in the presence of God:



worshiping, expressing our heartfelt devotion and praising to the Lord. This article would be extremely lengthy (and I would get in trouble for being too wordy... as I often am), if I gave examples of ways we can worship God. Yet for the sake of brevity (oh boy, have I passed that point already?) I will emphasize that there is nothing like being with Christian brothers and sisters, sitting side by side and worshiping in one accord at church.

Therefore St. John's spends much time and energy preparing for worship...not to be perfect, but to be authentic and honoring.

If you feel you are not compromising your health by attending in-person worship but have gotten out of the habit of coming to worship in community at the church, I encourage you to make a goal of coming each Sunday for a month. Make the time to worship and ask God to sort out how you will still get done the things you need to do. I have confidence that God will work in your situation to give you enough time for the other things in your life that cry for your time and attention outside of worship time.

*At the end of the month, ask yourself:*

Have I felt more connected to God?

Has time spent in worship renewed me spiritually?

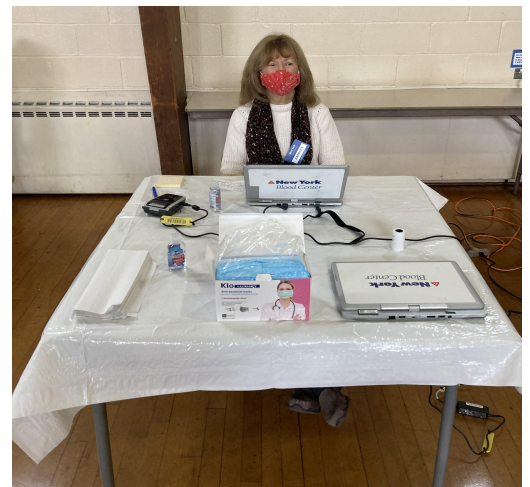
Where do I go from here? What does God want from me in terms of worship?

You can answer those questions yourself and proceed as the Spirit leads you and your family. But rest assured, St. John's will always be here: planning and implementing opportunities for worship together in community. Altar Guild scheduling snafus, difficulty creating bulletins and a living room covered with sheet music are all worth it...because **worship matters to us**, and I believe with all my heart...**worship matters to God too.**

Joy in Jesus,  
Jeanne Jones  
(DLM-Director of Lay Ministry)

**Blood Drive**

St. John's made history by collecting 56 units of blood for the Drive in January. This was the most blood collected at a drive under Jan Viola's leadership and she was extremely grateful for the generous response from St. John's members & friends as well as people in the community. All donors gave the gift of life!



**Congregation Meeting**

While we would have rather had the January Congregation Meeting in person, we were grateful to have the technology to Zoom the meeting. It is no easy feat to run this meeting remotely, and we greatly appreciate Dave Hawkinson, Bob Knapp, Rev. Koenig, Lee Pagonos, Abby Triebel and Jeanne Jones for their parts in organizing and running the meeting.

### **First Communion**

On April 3rd, we celebrated the Rite of First Communion! The children worked hard to learn the fundamentals of the Eucharist, and were blessed to fully participate at the table for the very first time. We give thanks for God's children here at St. John's, and rejoice with all of the following children and their parents!

Lucas Ryan Christie  
Tatum Lynn Crawford  
Kyle Robert Hildwein  
Sean Philip Lynch  
Kurt Albert Moore

Gianni Steven Pecchia  
Matthew Christian Pierson  
Gabriel Durwood Swart  
Jordan Alexander Whyte

### **Timpani for St. John's!**

If you were at St. John's for Reformation Sunday last fall, you probably remember the rich sound of timpani (borrowed from Vassar College) used to enhance the music. After worship people were all abuzz about the instrument and how moving the music was that Sunday. Fast forward to February 20, when St. John's debuted our OWN timpani to be used in worship! St. John's is now the proud owner of 4 timpani due to the generosity of a member who donated the instruments. We are grateful for this wonderful contribution to the music at St. John's and look forward to using these instruments during worship and concerts.



### **Felix Hell Concert January 23, 2022**

In January we were thrilled to welcome Felix Hell back to St. John's to perform an organ recital! Felix spent the weekend in town and between practice times was able to enjoy some quality time with various members of St. John's and the local organist community. His visit culminated in a lively concert on Sunday afternoon. Over 200 people enjoyed his thrilling performances of works by Bach,

Buxtehude, Liszt, and others both in person and via the live stream.

Here's the link to one of the pieces Felix played during the concert. Meditation on Akatombo by Guy Bovet (born 1942) from Three Japanese Sketches, op.

<https://youtu.be/MUPo3JoQ0UE>

**Doug (Radar) Ohlandt**



Doug Ohlandt was the St. John's Office Administrator for 8 months and we are extremely grateful for his dedicated service during that time. Jeanne Jones often called him "Radar" which was a throwback to the TV show MASH. Radar could find anything, knew the needs before any were even expressed and was so in tune with the operation that he was 2 steps ahead of people in conversation and actions. That was Doug!

Doug was integral to the transition to the new office administrator, Maggie, and spend many evenings after a full day's work at his new job, to help with that. We appreciate both Doug and Maggie working those hours for a smooth hand-off of the "baton."

We appreciate Doug's continuation in ministry at St. John's despite not sitting in the office admin chair at St. John's, as the percussionist at the contemporary (9am) service, bell ringer with our St. John's Bell Groups and timpanist. (I looked it up, timpanist is indeed what you call someone who plays timpani.)

**Office Administrator**

We are grateful to have a new person on the St. John's staff, Maglyn Jack-Carrington (Maggie). Maggie's positive energy, friendliness and competent skill base makes her a welcome addition to the office personnel. Please see her bio below and if you stop by the church during the week when she is there, be sure to encourage her with a hearty WELCOME!

Maggie Carrington was born and raised in the Caribbean Island of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and migrated to the US to attend College where she obtained a BS degree in Business, Management and Finance. She is the office administrator and brings more than 19 years of experience working in public service and office administration combined. She is a devout Christian with a heart for service to God and others and an active member of New Beginnings Church. Her walk with God, she continuously hopes, will be influenced by things on which He places the highest priority. Mom to Ashley and Chaz and spouse to Hollis, Maggie is devoted to her family. She enjoys listening to music, housekeeping, tailoring et al.

**JAM NEWS**

The JAM kids started a new unit in January called, "Under Construction". Some of the Bible stories were: The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), Noah Builds the Ark (Genesis 6:9-22), The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-20), The Wise and Foolish Builders (Luke 6:46-49), Nehemiah Faces Opposition (Nehemiah 4), and Jesus Prepares a Place for Us (John 14:1-14). Through these Bible stories, the children learned the importance of following God's plan (blueprint) for our lives and building our lives on the solid



foundation of Jesus. The last lesson focused on the heavenly home that God has prepared (built) for us. It gives us hope and joy to know God has made a way for us to be with Him in heaven!

During Lent the kids listened to the parables of Jesus and what they mean for us today. A few of the questions we explored were: Who is my neighbor? Can our faith grow big like a mustard plant? How does that happen? If I lose my way like sheep sometimes lose theirs, does God care and come after me? These stories (parables) help us know Jesus better and what he wants for our lives.

### **Soup Suppers/Mid-Week Lenten Service**

It was a thrill to be able to return to the dearly loved Lenten tradition of Soup Suppers. There is something about sharing a simple bowl of homemade soup, tasty bread and homemade cookies that warms the heart, connects us, and allows one to recharge mid-week. Follow that up with an informal time of worship and scripture reflection after the meal and Wednesday nights were an important part of many people's Lenten journey this year.



*Thanks to all who helped make this happen!*

Thanks to our chefs for sharing their cooking skills: John & Abby Dux, Diane Gehringer (she made soup for 2 different nights), Rich & Beth Thorn, Brent Feldweg, Judie Pagonas, Susan Brady, and Shari Desser.

Special thanks to Christine Cuttler for setting up for worship, Partick Walker for tinkling the ivories for our hymns and to Cheryl Moreau and Diane Gehringer for their help setting up.

### Easter 2022

St. John's Holy Week path was filled with experiential worship opportunities Maundy Thursday and 2 on Good Friday leading to the joyous celebration filled with sound from the choir, brass and timpani. Being together on Resurrection Sunday was a very moving experience as we worshipped the Risen Savior!



### Video Productions

“What is Holy Week?” and the “Acolyte Easter Greeting” were 2 videos produced by Michelle Locke to help us better understand the significance of the days in Holy week, leading to the joy of Easter Sunday. Check them out on the St. John's Lutheran Poughkeepsie Youtube channel.



### Food Pantry Update

In the first quarter of this year (the last 3 months), the St. John's Food Pantry has served 173 people! Thanks to all who continually support this ministry!

### **Confirmation**

Our St. John's Confirmation program is a three year journey. One of the things that our youth learn about more than once during those three years is Baptism. After all, they are preparing to affirm their own baptisms. This year, our youth had the opportunity to make Baptismal Banners which will be given out to all those that are baptized over the next few years at St. John's.



### **From 2012-2022, Mark Jacobson served as a missionary in Tanzania, supported by St. John's Lutheran Church. He passed away in February this year and here is his obituary.**

Jacobson, Dr. Mark L. 70, died on February 11, 2022, surrounded by his family. A man of great faith, he was called to serve as a physician in Arusha, Tanzania, his home for almost 40 years. Mark was born Dec 16, 1951, in Stillwater, MN, to Reuben and C. Jean Jacobson. He married his wife Linda in 1982, his partner in life and work, and they raised their three daughters in Arusha. Mark was a man of vision and action. Through The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, he developed and directed health projects in Tanzania and other countries. He grew a one-room clinic into two nationally recognized hospitals, and as health needs in the area changed, he developed programs around HIV/AIDS, obstetric fistula repair, palliative care and hospice, cancer care, and medical training. Equipped with degrees from Harvard College, the University of Minnesota Medical School (where he was also a Professor), and Johns Hopkins University, Mark helped build local health institutions that will remain in the care and leadership of Tanzanians. Mark loved safari drives, music, travel, squash, and bird watching. He kept a sense of humor to the end: of his brain tumor he joked "I'm sick, but it's all in my head". He is survived by his loving wife Linda; his three daughters and their spouses, Laura (James Wu), Sarah (Stéphane Dérobert), and Katherine; and his three sisters and their spouses, Lynn and Rich Voelbel, Jeanie Morrison, Kris Jacobson and Bill Chadwick, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by Bob Morrison. Memorials welcome to groups dear to Mark: Operation Bootstrap Africa (Mark and Linda Jacobson Endowed Scholarship); Global Health Ministries (Selian Hospice); or Foundation for Cancer Care in Tanzania (Brain Cancer Initiative).



### **Love Inc Cookie Walk**

Thank You to everyone who supported the Mid-Hudson Love INC 14th Annual Cookie Walk which raised over \$5,000 to help those in need. We appreciate the many bakers, volunteers, patrons and Steve Jones' Thrivent Financial sponsorship for supporting this 'delicious' event!

### **Parish Care**

The Parish Care Mission Team continues to help parishioners by taking them to MD appointments, rehab, etc. If you or a relative needs help in this direction please contact us. We continue to receive unneeded medications to send to the Muriel Gordon Foundation for use in third world countries. Please leave any such medicines or medical supplies in the office for Jan Viola to pick up. Parish Care also has resumed the Senior Exercise group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM under the leadership of Linda Upright. It is held in the Fellowship Hall. We also continue to have Blood Drives several times a year. Parish Care will soon be resuming visits to Lutheran Care Center to distribute Communion to those members unable to get to the Chapel. We are planning a free Alzheimer's Luncheon on May 22, 2022 to promote understanding of this condition. Lunch will be prepared by JJ Manley and volunteers from the CIA.

### **Bell Concert**

The Bell Concert was a huge success, with 173 people joining either in-person or through livestream. If you missed it, check it out on the St. John's Lutheran Poughkeepsie YouTube channel! \$3190 was raised for the music program at St. John's so we can go above and beyond the budget to continue bringing high quality music for events and during worship.

To see more pictures of the event go to

<http://www.stjohnselc.org/bell-concert-spring-2022/>

### **Bunco**

52 people attended the Bunco Game Night at church which was a huge success for all ages. There were 17 people who had never played before and 6 visitors who joined us! The "Balloon of Shame" with gag gift attached, was passed from person to person whenever someone rolled double 3's (which wipes out you and your partner's score.) On the very last round of the night, Peter Todaro was the last to roll double 3's and enjoyed the gag gift of a puzzle and "Peeps" cereal (oh yum!) Congrats to Scott Borra who had the second highest score of the night and came in 2nd place. Susan Brady was the ultimate 1st place winner with the highest score of the night. It was a joy to gather together for social time and a whole lot of fun!



**St. John's Future Events  
May & June 2022**

*\*Nave=Main Worship Space*

**May 29** *St. John's Pantry Open 9-11AM*

**June 5 & 19**

**June 4 & 15** *Wrapped in Love Ministry 1-4PM, Blue Room*

**May 14** *Spring Clean-up St. John's Building 9AM*

**May 15** *Legacy Fund: Planned Giving Info Luncheon 11:30AM, Fellowship Hall*

**May 22** *Alzheimer's Info Luncheon 11:30AM, Fellowship Hall*

**June 5** *Pentecost Sunday  
JAM kids will have a special presentation during worship 10:30AM*

**June 12** *Congregation Meeting 11:30AM, Nave\**

**June 18** *Adopt-a-Highway 9AM, Burger King Parking Lot Route 44*

**June 19** *Last day of JAM/Ice Cream Social 11:30AM, outside  
All donations will help support the St. John's Music Program.*

**June 26** *Celtic Sunday: Celtic music during 10:30AM worship.  
ONE Worship Service Only at 10:30AM*