



The **St. John Eagle**

*“Celebrating over 100 years, 1904 - 2007”
Member Congregation of the ELCA and LCMC*



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St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Ellsworth Road at King Street

Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

Church Tel: (978) 531-1731

Rev. Raymond H. Phyles Tel: (978) 531-2264

Internet: <http://www.stjohnpeabody.org>

From the Pastor's Pen Macintosh

“On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*. This Act changed the time change date for Daylight Saving Time in the United States. Beginning in 2007, DST will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November. . . . During DST, clocks are turned forward one hour, effectively moving an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. . . . In the United States, 2:00 a.m. was originally chosen as the changeover time because it was practical and minimized disruption. . . . It is early enough that . . . the changes occur before most early shift workers and early churchgoers are affected.”

If you're like I am, this bit of information gleaned from the Internet is a bit surprising, even though technically it is two years old. Our usual date for changing to Daylight Saving Time, the first Sunday in April, has been moved up to March 11 this year. Please make note of this change and set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on the tenth so that you won't be late for worship on the eleventh.

Of course, moving our clocks ahead is not just a change of time; it is also a harbinger of spring. Even though the time change is now three weeks earlier, can spring be far behind? And if spring is near, so too is Lent. Indeed, we are already in the Lenten season. As I have mentioned on other occasions, Lent has as part of its root meaning “to lengthen,” which of course refers to the time of year when the days are lengthening.

Spring and longer days promise the happy prospect of more sunshine and warmth and even milder weather than we have enjoyed so far this winter. However, despite its place on the calendar, Lent seems to run contrary to all that, because Lent is the season of the church year when we trace our Lord's journey to the cross, and the Sundays in Lent turn our attention to very somber matters. Lent is anything but sunshine and warmth.

As we consider our Lord's suffering and death, so are we reminded of our own sojourn in this life, when we too face the prospect of suffering and death. These, I grant you, are not easy things to contemplate, and they may prompt in many of us the desire to avoid worship during Lent, finding any excuse, including not setting our clocks ahead, to avoid church on these Sundays. I have noted of late that our attendance to worship is down a bit. But I would remind you that Lent and what it represents are at the core of our Christian faith. Our Lord journeys to the cross to die there for our sins and transgressions. But more so, he dies on the cross so that he—and we—might live again in the resurrection from the dead, which is at the very center of our Christian hope and faith.

Easter, then, is the ultimate goal of Lent because Easter is the promise of eternal life with God. This good news is at the heart of the gospel, but it can be taken much too casually without hearing first the price that our Lord has paid to bring it about. Indeed, the reason for even greater attendance during Lent is that when we gather to celebrate Easter and the resurrection, they are not casually taken for granted, but instead are genuinely celebrated by each of us on Easter Sunday and on each day that follows days that are touched by the joy and hope of God's gift of new life in our Lord Jesus Christ. Please set your clocks every Sunday this spring and plan to join us for our Lenten and Easter worship.

SERVING ST. JOHN WITH OUR TIME AND TALENTS –

During March:

Ushers

Carole Grayson
Dan Eisenberg

Lay Assistant

3/4 Steve Gemma
3/11 Angie Cornwell
3/14 Steve Gemma
3/18 Sue Reed
3/25 Linda Phyles

Custodial

3/4 Dancewicz
3/11 Reed
3/18 Phyles
3/25 Berg/Grayson/Othote

Lector

3/4 Judy Othote
3/11 Judy Othote
3/18 Dan Eisenberg
3/25 Dan Eisenberg

Childcare

3/4 Chip & Shannon
3/11 Kyle & Heather
3/18 Rick & Cheryl
3/25 Kristin & Kira

Coffee Hour

3/4 Judy & Cheryl
3/11 Raudna & Carole
3/18 Linda & Susan
3/25 Sue & Lisa

During April:

Ushers

Ralph Comeau
Chip Bott

Lay Assistant

4/1 Angie Cornwell
4/8 Steve Gemma
4/15 Sue Reed
4/22 Linda Phyles
4/29 Angie Cornwell

Custodial

4/1 Steve Gemma
4/8 Valletti/Carson
4/15 Danciewicz
4/22 Reed
4/29 Phyles

Lector

4/1 Linda Phyles
4/8 Linda Phyles
4/15 Sue Dancewicz
4/22 Sue Dancewicz
4/29 Phil/Sue Reed

Childcare

4/1 Kyle & Heather
4/8 Rick & Cheryl
4/15 Kristin & Kira
4/22 Chip & Shannon
4/29 Kyle & Heather

Coffee Hour

4/1 Michele & Lydia
4/8 Easter – All Members
4/15 Linda & Becky
4/22 Mary & Burt
4/29 Shannon & Angie

During May:

Ushers

Tom Knowlton
Heather Phyles

Lay Assistant

5/6 Steve Gemma
5/13 Sue Reed
5/20 Linda Phyles
5/27 Angie Cornwell

Custodial

5/6 Berg/Grayson/Othote
5/13 Gemma
5/20 Valletti/Carson
5/27 Dancewicz

Lector

5/6 Phil/Sue Reed
5/13 Tom Knowlton
5/20 Tom Knowlton
5/27 Judy Othote

Childcare

5/6 Rick & Cheryl
5/13 Kristin & Kira
5/20 Chip & Shannon
5/27 Kyle & Heather

Coffee Hour

5/6 Sue & Lisa
5/13 Men of the Congregation
5/20 Raudna & Carole
5/27 Linda & Susan

****Please ask someone to fill in for you if you are unable to make it when you are scheduled. Phone numbers are in the church directory.**

St. John's youth group has an on going drive to raise money for children in the area. Once a month, on the Sundays that the Youth group has meetings, a collection box will be put out during the coffee hour for any extra coins you may have. All contributions will be appreciated. Thank you in advance! All money collected this year will go towards buying books for the children at the Inn Between Shelter in Peabody. Remember, look for the "Coins for Kids" collection box.

Our volunteer lists need more volunteers! Please consider serving your church as lay assistant, lector, or a member of the choir. There are also other opportunities to serve as a cleaner, coffee hour host, usher and the list could go on and on! If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas in this regard, please speak with Pastor, Linda Phyles or Steve Gemma. Our congratulations to Angie Cornwell as she began her service of lay assistant on October 8.

We began our celebration of the Advent Season on December 3 with the lighting of the first candle in the Advent Wreath. That afternoon the Annual Advent Workshop was held. Wreaths, ornaments and other crafts were made. Good fellowship combined with the arts and crafts made for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Pledges were dedicated on Sunday, December 17 during the worship service. Your help, support and generosity for our congregational ministry in the coming year is very much appreciated.

On the last Sunday in Advent our Sunday Church School presented their annual pageant describing the story of Christ's birth in their own special way. Our thanks go to Susan Dancewicz, Rick Cormier and other staff members for an excellent presentation.

Our Christmas Eve Service was held at 4:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon and was a meaningful Celebration of Christ's birth. Poinsettias at the altar only made the Sacrament much more sacred and spiritual. December 31, the last day of the year, was celebrated with a Service of Lessons and Carols. There were many readers who took part and we thank them for their messages. There was a short sermon preached by very talented Tom Powell. Being new to the congregation, he has already shown us his musical talents as a member of the choir.

Sunday, January 28 our annual Congregational Meeting was held after an abbreviated coffee hour, with Pastor Phyles officiating. The congregation approved the 2007 budget as well as the new Church Council Member, Lisa Winsor.

The Annual St. John Family Retreat to Camp Calumet was February 16 –19. This year there were 21 attendees in all. Everyone participated in the traditional activities such as tubing, snow shoeing, ice skating, broom-ball, toasting marshmallows on a bonfire by the lake and of course the Giant Scrabble Game. The men won the Scrabble game this year but only by a couple of points. It was a very close the entire game. Finally, as always, the food was plentiful and superb. Reservations have been made to attend again next year. Please plan to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS:

On Wednesday evening, November 22, 2006 Timothy Caves tested and earned his Black Belt in Kempo Karate from Tokyo Joe's Studio in Ipswich. This is a very worthwhile achievement and we wish him well.

On Sunday, February 28, Our WELCA group presented bibles to three third graders. In accordance with the commitment made during each child's baptism, we as a congregation, have promised to place the word of God into their hands. Congratulations to Hannah Quill, Timothy Cormier and Summer Westfield.

Sunday, February 28, the Annual Pancake Breakfast was held. All who attended did not go away hungry! Thanks to all the people who made this event happen. As is the custom in the past, plaques were presented to several members of the congregation for volunteering their time and talents; Lydia Todd, Mike Parr, Chip Bott and Carole Grayson were honored for their past volunteer service.

WELCA NEWS

Did you see the new tables in the church undercroft? They are a gift from the WELCA for the entire congregation to use.

FUTURE EVENTS:

During March, as has been our custom, Pastor will be conducting a Healing Service on Wednesday, March 14. This service will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. This has been a meaningful service for all attendees in the past.

Saturday, March 24, there will be a work day at St. John. Painting, curtain cleaning and other needed repairs and maintenance will be performed. If you can assist in any way, please speak to Rick Cormier or Pastor Phyles.

Palm Sunday falls on April 1 this year. As we have often done in the past, during Holy Week there will be a Table of the Lord Service held on Maundy Thursday at the church beginning at 7:30 p.m.

During this service there will be time to hammer our nails (received on Ash Wednesday) into a wooden cross. Along with the Sacrament of Holy Communion of bread and wine, a small snack and drink is also provided.

On Sunday, April 8, there will be a festive Easter Worship Service held at 9:30 a.m. Communion will be celebrated during the service. There will be special music provided by Margaret Knowlton and members of the church choir. Please feel welcome to come, there is always room.

After the Easter Worship the annual Easter egg hunt will be held—rain or shine. This is held in conjunction with the Sunday Church School Staff for their students. There are always many prizes and surprises found in the eggs. This has been an annual event for a good number of years and everyone looks forward to it.

On Saturday, April 28, WELCA will be hosting a spaghetti supper at the church, followed by a Giant Scrabble Game. Additional board games will be made available as well. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for additional details.

Looking forward into May, we will be given a special treat as we honor all of our mothers. Here at St. John the men of the congregation have volunteered to provide goodies for the Coffee Hour on this special day on the secular calendar. We have found in the past that there are some very good cooks among the males in the congregation.

Please mark your calendars for the annual church picnic held the second Sunday of June – this year the 10th of June. Please plan to attend this day of food, fun and fellowship for all. Please watch the bulletins for additional details as this day and the warmer weather approaches.