



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



August 2017

Rector's Rambling

“Let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be upon to the prayers of thy humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

It is an article of our faith that God hears our prayers. But is it an article of our practice that we seek to ask for those things that are pleasing to him? It is relatively obvious that we should not ask for things that are forbidden by God. It would be wrong to ask God for the opportunity to have physical relations with anyone to whom you are not married according to the laws of God. It would be wrong to ask God to help you rob a bank, or murder someone, or cheat successfully on your taxes. Those things are pretty obvious. But what about some of those other things which are not such obvious violations of Bible teaching?

To answer such a question, we must look deeply into our hearts and honestly evaluate our motives. For instance, there is nothing inherently wrong with asking God to help me look my best for a job interview or a big date. But if my motive for the prayer is only to feed my vanity and pride, then I have a problem. To pray for success in my business and career is a very good thing, but if that desire grows out of some perverse need to control everyone and everything around me, I have a problem. To ask God to meet my needs for life and daily sustenance can be a sign of great faith, but if it grows out of sloth and a general unwillingness to work for my money, then I have a problem.

Just as we should not ask God for things he has forbidden or condemned in the Bible, we ought not to ask him for things when our desire for them grows out of attitudes and outlooks which are incompatible with God's character as revealed to us in Jesus Christ. And we must be careful to make sure that the Jesus we serve is the Son of God as revealed in the Bible, not just a pale reflection of ourselves or of someone we like or respect. All of us from time to time are tempted to reinvent God in our own image in order to justify our behavior and attitudes. We must resist that temptation at all costs, because to replace the God revealed in Sacred Writ with one of our own making is idolatry, and it breaks the first table of the law as surely as did the orgiastic idolatry of the children of Israel at Sinai.

So, how can I seek to insure that my prayers are consistent with God's will?

1. Read the Bible (all of it) regularly and systematically so that I begin to know what God commands, what he forbids, and what he is like.

2. Be honest with myself in relation to my motives and my propensities.

3. Pray only for those things of which I can honestly say, “This is without a doubt pleasing to God, and consistent with the Bible.”

4. Always approach God with humility, realizing that I could be wrong, and be ready to change my prayer if I am convinced by Scripture and the godly traditions and wisdom of the Church through the ages that I need to do so.

May we all find the Holy Wisdom of God to ask for those things that are pleasing to him. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Bill+

The Giving Tree

Many of you have already selected leaves from the Giving Tree to help those women who are about to be given back their children and are planning to set up housekeeping. Finding housing and furnishings are part of the process, but most of these women have very little money, and buying necessities such as soap and toothpaste is difficult. If you can possibly help by purchasing one or more of the items on the Giving Tree and returning your donation to the back of the church, your gift would be much appreciated. Many thanks to those of you who have already helped those in need.

Sunday School Update

Dear St. John’s Family,

At this time we have found it necessary to cancel Sunday School for the summer. We simply do not have enough volunteers to make a regular schedule work. As the parent of a young one still in the trenches, I cannot tell you what a welcome break it is to get to truly engage in church every once in a while and know that my child is learning to love Christ on his level in a safe place. I feel strongly that the future of our church depends on this program. It is my goal to have enough adults willing to donate just one Sunday per month to cover Sunday School starting in the fall. If the Lord places it on your heart to serve in this way, please contact Wendy Garbrandt at 740-407-7255.

Thank You

A huge “thank you” to Gerry Owsley and Mark Perrine for their work in organizing and planning food for the Artwalk. Thank you also to all of you who were willing to display and share your talents. It was appreciated by all who enjoyed the displays.

Looking Forward - September ~ Harvest Festival

The date will soon be announced for an ingathering of garden produce and flowers to be blessed at the service and delivered to our shut-ins following the service. If you don’t have a garden, it is ok to bring produce or flowers from a store.

Look Around

Look around three Sundays in a row at church. Is someone you know conspicuous by their absence? Call them, or send them a card saying that you missed them, and hope to see them soon.

It Is Not Only Prayer

It is not only prayer that gives God glory, but work. Smiting on an anvil, sawing a beam, whitewashing a wall, driving horses, sweeping, scouring—everything gives God glory if being in God’s grace you do it as your duty. To go to communion worthily gives God great glory, buy a man with a dung fork in his hand a woman with a slop pail, give him glory too. He is so great that all things give him glory if you mean they should.

Gerard Manley Hoping
“The Principle or Foundation”
Christianity Today, Sept. 2003

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group

meets second Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. at Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living, 418 S. Broad St. Lancaster.

The Parkinson’s Support Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living at 418 S. Broad St., Lancaster. Contact Diane Palmer (740) 653-0332 for more information.

“Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.” *Corrie ten Boom*

Birthdays

- 8 Peg Merton
- 9 Mark Perrine
- 11 Cheryl Berner
Joanna Carr
- 12 Anna Burton
Lowell Stallsmith
- 15 Robin Leonard
Mary Oehler
- 17 Ashley Campbell
Mid Hall
- 20 Bob Williams
- 26 Beck Babcock
Kay Waddell
- 27 Steve Martens
- 29 Theodore Dyer
Jim Hall
- 30 Jason Smith

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Ivan and Jessie Smith (59)
- 2 David and Nancy Russell (76)
- 12 Jim and Susan Chilenski (95)
- 16 Steve and Jane Wood (77)
- 17 Jim and Peg Merton (68)
Gary and Charlene Rowley (57)
- 18 Jack and Elaine Warnett (79)
- 19 Bruce and Bobbie Beebe (78)
Sam and Jane Hurley (67)
- 22 Jim and Sarah Miller (53)
- 30 Gerald Owsley & Mary Oehler
(14)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Doug Carr (78)
Ann Leonard (59)
- 3 Justice Wood (11)
Steven Wood (11)
- 4 Julia Taylor (96)
- 10 Margaret Canter (08)
- 11 Julie Meenach (02)
- 19 Sally Stallsmith (34)
- 31 Mary Oehler (58)

Parish Health Ministries Luncheons Cancelled

The Parish Health Luncheons which are on Wednesdays after the noon Eucharist are cancelled until September.

August Fellowship Breakfast

The August Fellowship Breakfast will be on Sunday, the 6th after the 9 a.m. service.

Bishop Breidenthal’s Visit—October 8th

For those of you who are interested in confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation of vows, please see Fr. Bill to prepare for the Bishop’s visit.

Winery Discussion Group to Meet

The *Touchstone* Discussion Group will meet Thursday, August 24th at 6:30 at Hocking Hills Winery. The meeting which would be on August 10th has been cancelled.

Can You Help?

The Altar Guild is always looking for new members. This is a very quiet ministry serving our Lord with weekly altar preparation. If you would be interested, please contact any member listed in the Eagle and Lamb schedule page.

Pregnancy Decision Health Center Fundraiser

The Pregnancy Decision Health Center Fundraising Presentation on September 20th will feature LTC. Oliver North. If you are interested, please sign up for tickets at the back of the church.

A Suggestion

If you know anyone in our parish who is ill or facing a difficulty or infirmity, fill out a prayer card. Drop it in the alms basin or lay it on the altar. The Bible admonishes us to pray for each other and bear one another’s burdens.

St. John's Episcopal Church

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00P AA Meeting	2 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	3	4	5
6 9:00 HC 10:00 Fellowship Breakfast	7 7:00P Choral Evensong	8 8:00P AA Meeting	9 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	10	11	12
13 9:00 Morning Prayer 10:00 Coffee Hour	14 7:00P Choral Evensong	15 8:00P AA Meeting	16 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	17 1:00 Eagle and Lamb deadline	18	19
20 9:00 HC 10:00 Coffee Hour	21 7:00P Choral Evensong	22 8:00P AA Meeting	23 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	24 6:30 Winery Discussion Group	25	26
27 9:00 HC 10:00 Coffee Hour	28 7:00P Choral Evensong	29 8:00P AA Meeting	30 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	31		

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School



August 2017 Serving Schedule

August 6	9:00 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Shawn Dyer & Holly Coffill	Exodus 34:29-35
Acolytes	Hannah Hurdley & Nikki Sutter	Psalm 99
Lectors	Sarah Perlow & Charlie Voss	2 Peter 1:13-21
Ushers	Robin Leonard & Mike Whiley	Luke 9:28-36
Altar Guild	Sarah Perlow & Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: Mid Hall & Janet Kling
August 13	9:00 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Mark Conrad & Ivan Smith	I Kings 19:9-18
Acolytes	Asher Carr & Joanna Carr	Psalm 85
Lectors	L.M. Sheffield & Joan Ream	Romans 10:5-15
Ushers	SteveWood & Steve Messerly	Matthew 14:22-33
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl
August 20	9:00 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Genesis 45:1-15
Acolytes	Hannah Hurdley & Libby Garbrandt	Psalm 133
Lectors	Marc Conrad & Caitlin Hurdley	Romans 11:29-32
Ushers	Robin Leonard & Tim Hall	Matthew 15:10-28
Altar Guild	Peggy Merton & Gita Sadoni	Set-up: Judie Miller & Mid Hall
August 27	9:00 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom Hammer & Robin Harris	Exodus 1:8--2:10
Acolytes	Joanna Carr & Nikki Sutter	Psalm 124
Lectors	Ivan Smith & Holly Coffill	Romans 12:1-8
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Tim Hall	Matthew 16:13-20
Altar Guild	Bobbi Beebe & Janet Kling	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl

****If you are unable to serve, please arrange for a replacement from the list below. If you cannot find one, please let Fr. Pursley know by Saturday evening (740-215-3900).**

LAY READERS	ALTAR GUILD	ACOLYTES	LECTORS	USHERS
Holly Coffill 740-652-9124	Bobbie Beebe 614-837-0838	Asher & Joanna Carr 740-385-1356	Holly Coffill 740-652-9124	Tim Hall 740-654-5795
Marc Conrad 740-243-4933	Mid Hall 740-654-5819	Libby Garbrandt 740-653-9639	Marc Conrad 740-243-4933	Robin Leonard 740-808-4814
Shawn Dyer 740-277-3830	Jean Hammer 740-687-6134	Hannah Hurdley 740-654-7831	Caitlyn Hurdley 740-243-0295	Steve Messerly 740-653-4427
Tom & Jean Hammer 740-687-6134	Janet Kling 217-201-0111	Nicole Sutter 740-652-9124	Frankie Mathias 740-653-5559	Mike Whiley 740-654-4306
Robin Harris 740-215-2311	Peg Merton 740-974-7137		Sarah Perlow 740-654-4459	Steve Wood 740-653-7435
Frankie Mathias 740-653-5559	Judie Miller 740-215-3135		Joan Ream 740-687-4554	
Jim Merton 740-974-4838	Sarah Perlow 740-654-4459		L.M. Sheffield 440-653-1865	
Ann Rickson 740-422-9034	Gita Sadoni 740-653-8999		Ivan Smith 740-654-3859	
Ivan Smith 740-503-8880	Sally Stallsmith 740-654-6592		Charlie Voss 740-654-4225	
	Carol Uhl 740-569-6190			

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

134 North Broad Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH STAFF

PRESIDING BISHOP: The Most Rev'd Michael B. Curry
BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF SO. OHIO: The Rt. Rev'd Thomas E. Breidenthal
RECTOR: The Rev'd Mr. G. William Pursley
DEACON: The Rev'd Mr. Nick England
CHOIRMASTER: Dr. Doug Carr
ORGANIST: Thurlow Weed
ALTAR GUILD PRESIDENT:
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Janet Kling
FINANCIAL CONSULTANT: Lowell Stallsmith
TREASURER: Robin Harris
VERGER: Jim Hall
MISTRESS of ACOLYTES: Caitlin Hurdley
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Jean Hammer

Parish Office (740) 653-3052
Rector (740) 654-5274 (home)
(740) 215-3900 (cell)

Members of Vestry

Mark Conrad (Senior Warden)	740-243-4933
Travis Kling (Junior Warden)	217-493-9376
Steve Ball (20)	740-654-7875
Doug Carr (18)	740-385-1356
Holly Coffill (18)	740-652-9124
Caitlin Hurdley	740-243-0295
Michael Garbrandt (19)	740-409-4123
Robin Leonard (20)	740-687-5621
James Sutter (18)	740-652-9124

For daily & Sunday readings & Fr. Pursley's
sermons, visit St. John's website
www.stjohnlancaster.org