



The Missioner

**St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
Washington & 11th Streets, Lockport, IL 60441
815-834-1168 www.stjohns-lockport-il.org**

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July 2014

There is an old Zen Buddhist saying that goes: “If you see the Buddha on the road, kill him!”

Like many Zen sayings, this one is both stark, and to the point. At first blush it sounds almost preposterous, and just ridiculous. However, if we do as we should, and give the saying some time to ruminate, we come to some deeper examination. And while this is a question that does not have exact answers, it is a tool for teaching that teaches us to ask deeper questions (hopefully). This is a teaching strategy which is known as a koan—it’s a riddle that makes us think, and hopefully allows us to unearth some deeper spiritual truths.

In the case of the aforementioned koan—again, we may be struck by how violent it is... But, if we think about what it would mean to actually meet the Buddha on the road, we might come to some other conclusions. Would we be impressed by his wisdom? Would we stray away from our own path to follow him somewhere else? Could we be seduced into remaining in the same spot as the Buddha, and never progress ourselves? Probably. Probably all of these, and a number of other things, as well. And if our spiritual journeys are meant to constantly draw us ever forward to greater, deeper growth, wouldn’t stopping or diverging be counter-intuitive? Even if it were for the Buddha?

I think what this particular image can speak to us is that we can never be comfortable to stop where we are—we can never allow ourselves to be contented to rest on images of success or even perceived success. To do this would be something like planning a trip to New York and stopping when we’ve reached a sign that said New York...

The point is that it’s easy to confuse where we are trying to go with where we really are. Likewise, along the way, we might be tempted to feel that we’ve arrived somehow at a place of stopping and attainment, when, in truth, we’ve been tempted to stop, and thereby halt our forward progression. This is counter-intuitive to growth.

So, as we enter into the summer season, and our lives (ideally) take a slower pace; I would invite you to contemplate this riddle—this koan... And I would ask you to consider what these false buddhas, or false attainments look like. Do they look like activity? Do they look like new people? Do they look like comfortable liturgy? Who knows... But whatever the case, it is our call to press on, ever forward in Christ, to grow closer and closer to the heart of God, and ourselves be more and more transformed into the likeness of Christ. But we can never allow ourselves to settle, or feel that we’ve attained our goal, and instead strive forever to grow.

Peace,

Fr. Matt Humm+

Vestry News

At the June 11, 2014 meeting, the Vestry...

Accepted the reports presented.

Heard...

- The finance reports for the month of May and year to date. People have responded to the winter expense appeal. We continue to have the expected deficit.
- Midyear financial statements will go out next month.
- Worship attendance numbers are up.
- Fr. Matt will be on vacation June 28-July 5 and July 30-August 6 as well as a weekend in September. Fr. Clayton Tomason will fill in as supply priest
- About the youth and family trip to the Diocesan Center July 24.
- The outreach committee minutes.

Participated in a discussion and activity for Thrive and the vitality at St. John's.

Took action ...

- To have two items for One to Grow On: an AED and improved signage for the church.
- To raise the Columbarium fee to \$1200 on January 1, 2015 with the opportunity for persons to purchase space at the current \$800 price before that date.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the vestry is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2014 beginning at 6:30 pm.

St. John the Evangelist

Receipts and Disbursements / May 2014

Activity for the Month

St. John's **Total Income** exceeded **Total Expenses** ("Net Ordinary Income") according to our "Revenue and Expenses for Month – Actual Versus Budget" (by \$2,400). This is due primarily to the donations received to help cover the excessive winter expenses.

Total Income (\$15,779) is approximately \$ 3,500 more than forecast. Pledge income for the month is above anticipated income by approximately \$900. Non – pledge income is also shy of projections for the month (\$780). Miscellaneous income (winter expenses) accounts for the higher than expected income.

Total Expense (\$12,480) for the month was approximately (\$1,100) more than forecast -- due primarily to building and restoration expenses (\$1,260 for fees associated with building project approval)

Year to date:

Our expenses have exceeded our anticipated revenues by approximately \$11,000. Total expenses (\$88,261) exceed Total revenues by (\$29,119). This figure includes \$14,600 in building and restoration expenses which are not part of our operating budget.

Total income is at \$59,143 (\$1,100 above forecast). Pledge income is approximately \$894 above expected revenue, while giver of record income is shy of forecast by \$3,400.

General Operations (Approximately \$65,750) are above budgeted expenses through the end of April (\$600). Our projected deficit when adjusting for building and restoration is approximately \$5500 below anticipated expenses.

In looking at the cost for snow removal and heating costs for this year, the expenses are far greater than planned for. Our cost for snow removal in 2013 was \$506 dollars compared to this year's cost of \$3,595 (\$3,100 more this year)/ Our cost for heating last year for the same four months Jan-Apr billing was \$2801.42 and this year was \$4,003 (\$1,202 more this year) These two items alone illustrate a \$4,300 increase in operational expenses in the first quarter. A formal appeal for assistance in covering our increased winter expenses resulted in approximately \$3600 in donations during the month of May to help offset this unanticipated expense.

Banking Account Activity

The First Midwest Bank Operating Account balance as of the end of the month was \$7,341.92.

There were no transfers of funds during the month of May.

Of Swords and Plowshares

A few months ago, the vestry approved a statement affirming our congregation's policy after the right to carry concealed firearms was passed in Illinois. The statement reads:

In so far as the State of Illinois has made legal the right to carry concealed firearms; it is our belief that holy spaces and places of worship should uphold the sanctity of a peaceful environment. For us, this means that weapons of any kind should be prohibited in such spaces, that we might more fully be able to incarnate the message of the Gospel of Peace as proposed (by our understanding) by our Lord Jesus Christ.

While we are, however, unable to enforce such a policy under state law; we hope that others would respect this request, and withhold their right to carry a concealed weapon on these church premises.

As many of you will also notice, approved signs have been posted at all doors on our property. And while this may seem a bit jarring, unfortunately it is necessary, if we hope to make clear that we prefer that people refrain from carrying weapons in our church.

Unfortunately, we have no legal recourse if individuals choose to carry concealed firearms into our church—what's more, our diocesan structure cannot mandate that we prohibit individuals from carrying concealed firearms in our congregations. Sadly, this is more an issue with the law, and less with our church polity. So, were we a school, bar, library, or government institution, we would have legal precedence to prohibit firearms. However, as our signs rightly reflect, we can only ask "please," and hope that some day our right to have a weapon-free environment will be respected.

Worship

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

As many of you know, the work of the Church belongs to all of us. As the Baptized, we have the opportunity to reach out and connect to people as individuals in ways that the church as a group cannot always do. Likewise, as a community of faith, we do what we can to care for one another, and share in the fellowship and Sacraments that the Church offers—even to those who cannot be present with the gathered community.

This is where Lay Eucharistic Ministers come in... As people trained and prepared for this ministry, they are sent out by the congregation to visit the sick, and take not only Holy Communion, but also a representation of the faith community.

Previously this ministry required a specific certification through the diocese—however, in recent years, this has changed, and certification is done within each parish. So, with that in mind, I would like to invite you to consider whether or not this is a ministry for you.

If this does sound like a ministry you would like to participate in, please let me know so **that we can plan a time for training. And, of course, don't hesitate to contact me with questions.**

Thanks,
Fr. Matt+

Certification in our congregation will include:
Certification in Keeping God's People Safe
Overview of Confidentiality Policy
Visitation Training

Formation

Church School Goes to the Cathedral



On July 24th we will be taking a field trip to St. James Commons in the city. This Diocesan tour will provide the children an opportunity to see what amazing things are happening in our Diocese and where it all takes place.

During their time there, they will visit the Cathedral, the Diocesan offices, and will also have a tutorial on the labyrinth which is located on the patio of St. James Commons. After the tour, we will head over to Uno Pizzeria where **St. John's Parish will treat folks to some delicious pizza.** Our trip will end with ice cream on the St. James patio.

Please sign up for this fun summer event. Sign up sheets for attendees and carpool drivers (parking will be validated), will be at the back of the church and on the Christian Formation Bulletin board. Contact Todd Sheetz at todd.sheetz@yahoo.com or Charity Humm at charityhumm@gmail.com with questions.

The Adventures of SWEET BABY JESUS



Post your adventure w/pictures to our Sweet Baby Jesus Facebook page at sweetbabyjesus@groups.facebook.com or email them to the church at office@stjohns-lockport-il.org.

Centering Prayer—Retreat

Save the Date for our September 6th retreat in Frankfort, IL at The Portiuncula Center for Prayer. The retreat will be from 9am until 4pm. Details with sign-up sheet forthcoming.



CHURCH SCHOOL

Youth Formation: Planning sessions on July 13th and August 10th at 9:15AM in the Atrium Contact: Todd Sheetz.



Youth Group Gathering (6th grade and up) on Sunday, July 20th at 7 PM. Invite a friend and join the fellowship and fun. Meeting in Montgomery Parish Hall. Contact: Kim McElheny

[St. John the Evangelist - Lockport](#) will be offer Keeping God's People Safe Training - Level One & Two, on Saturday, August 16 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Please bring a sack lunch. This is open to all members of the Diocese of Chicago. To register, please contact the Parish Office at 815-834-1168.



Calling All Men!



St. John's is starting our chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew! The Brotherhood is a prayer and service group focusing on bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to men in our congregation and our community. We are very excited to finally bring this ministry to the men of St, Johns. For more information please see Rob Brenna(robbrennan316@gmail.com) or Lee Moarn (dlmrn911@gmail.com) Informational packets are at the back of the church.

Parish Life

Note of Gratitude to...

- Our Parish Picnic Coordinators, Leona Davies, Charity Humm and Beth Pesavento for a fun event. (And to all those attendees whose delicious treats and dishes you brought to share.)
- Altar Guild members Pam Carter, Dorothy Cirrencione, Ellen Hill, Hannah Hill, Jan Lindstrand, Susie Meehan, Lee Moarn, Marlene VanKuiken and Kathy Zurek for their service in this ministry.



HEALTH MINISTRY



Blood Pressures readings will be available on Sunday, July 20th from 8am to noon. If you have questions about your medications, please bring them with you. Any health issues/questions can be emailed to the Parish Nurse, Lee Moarn, at stjohnparishnurselockport@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 815-834-1168.

Coming Soon—School Supply Sunday

August 17th is School Supply Sunday. Please pick ONE of the items listed below to bring with you to church. All supplies will be going to assist Milne Grove Elementary School. Thank you for supporting those in need in your local community!

- * 2 pocket plastic folders with brads or without brads (blue, orange, yellow, red, green, or purple)
- * Crayola crayons (8 or 24 count)
- * Crayola colored pencils (24 count)
- * Crayola washable markers (8 count)
- * Antibacterial wipes for hands and face
- * Fiskar scissors



Have a favorite hymn? Now is your opportunity to request a hymn this summer. Request cards are at the back of the sanctuary, (*next to sermon reprints*) and can be left in basket.

Outreach

Lockport Food Pantry—July Schedule of Items for Donations:

July 6: Beef Stew

July 13: Ravioli / SpaghettiOs

July 20: Flour / Sugar

July 27: Instant Mash Potatoes

Outreach Meeting, Thurs, July 3 at 7 PM ~ Morning Star Mission, Sat, July 12 at 10:30 AM
Please see bulletin board for more info and to sign-up. Questions: contact Judy Broud. Thank you!



From the Diocese

Events

On Saturday, June 21 from 7-10 pm, [St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn](#) will host a concert to benefit the [Campaign for St. James Commons](#). Portland-based duo [Northeast Northwest](#) will perform an evening of coffeehouse acoustic music with drinks and snacks included in the ticket price of \$24. For more information contact [Ellie Dunham](#) and [purchase tickets online](#).



Thursdays at St. James Commons

Free live music each week at 5:30 pm

Each Thursday in the summer (except July 3) St. James Cathedral's [Music in the Neighborhood](#) hosts a free concert in the Gallery at St. James Commons (65 E. Huron). Light refreshments are offered beginning at 5:30 and concerts run from 5:45 - 6:30 pm. The diverse lineup of Chicago talent features jazz, blues, folk, cabaret and more.



On June 19, hear [Trina Hamlin](#) perform ballads, folk-rock and blues with self-accompaniment on the harmonica.

[View a complete concert schedule.](#)

July Lectionary

Date	1st Lesson	Psalm	2nd Lesson	Gospel
July 6	Zechariah 9:9-12	Psalm 145: 8-15	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 13	Isaiah 55:10-13	Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-14	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 20	Isaiah 44: 6-8	Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 27	1 Kings 3:5-12	Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Some Helpful Resources For Daily Prayer

For Daily Prayer www.missionstclare.com
 For Daily Readings satucket.com/lectionary
 Episcopal News www.episcopalcafe.com
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens>
 National Church episcopalchurch.org
 Diocesan Website episcopalchicago.org
 Parish Connections stjohns-lockport-il.org
 Twitter: @forwardinchrist
 Facebook: St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church-Lockport, IL

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kim McElheny	7/1
Susie Meehan	7/7
Eli Wilson	7/7
Katie Pesavento	7/16
Tim Thompson	7/17
Gloria Thom[son]	7/18
Terry Arient	7/19
Dorothy Cirrencione	7/19
Cheryl Alton	7/20
Judy Koester	7/29
Sharon Williams	7/30
Cecilia Seabrook	7/31
Arthur & Cynthia Tancl, Jr.	7/9
William & Lillian Hensley	7/16



Website: www.stjohns-lockport-il.org
Contact us: 815-834-1168
office@stjohns-lockport-il.org

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Carol C. & Kourtnie R.

**And all those with terminal illnesses, their families,
and those caring for them.**

*** Please contact the office if any of the above information changes.*

Important Dates to Remember

July 2Daughters of the King at 10:30 AM
 July 2.....Prayer Shawl at 11:30 AM
 July 3.....Outreach at 7 PM
 June 8.....Standing Committee at 11:30 AM
 July 12..... Morning Star Mission at 10:30 AM
 July 16.....Daughters of the King at 10:30 AM
 July 16.....Prayer Shawl at 11:30 AM
 July 16.....Vestry at 6:30 PM
 July 20..... Blood Pressure Reading 8AM to 12 PM
 July 20.....Youth Group Gathering at 7PM
 July 24.....Youth Group Cathedral Tour

Staff

The Rev. R. Matthew Humm, *Priest*
 Thomas J. Secor, *Director of Music*
 Jill Crisman, *Church Secretary*
 Jim Alleman, *Sexton*
 Robert Meehan, *Sr. Warden*
 John Schwab, *Jr. Warden*
 Susan Meehan, *Clerk*

Vestry Members

Judy Broud 15	Lee Moarn 16
Rob Brennan 16	Art Pesavento 16
Leona Davies 15	Marlene Van Kuiken 17
Chris Hill 15	

Dorothy Cirrencione, *Sacristan*
 Todd Sheetz, *Director Christian Education*
 Open, *Ushers*
 Judy Broud, *Outreach*
 Rob Brennan, *Marketing*
 Lee Moarn, RN,BSN,FCN, *Health Ministry*
 Wendy Stewart, *Daughters of the King*
 Lillian Hensley, *Hospitality*
 Judy Matile, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

SUNDAY

8:00 AM. Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Formation
(resumes Sept. 2014)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
7:00 PM Holy Eucharist
(6:30 PM-2nd Wed)

**Mission Statement of
St. John the Evangelist Church**

“The mission of St. John the Evangelist Church is to incarnate our Baptismal Covenant as we worship and praise God through the Sacraments of the Church, proclaim the Gospel in word and action, promote Christian fellowship and spiritual growth, and encourage all members to live their lives for the benefit of all God’s people.”



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