

The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

May 2024

Have you ever wondered why there are four different Gospels? Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each has a little different "take" on the story of Jesus' life. Think about how many reporters we have telling people about the news of our day. Some people get their news from CNN, some from FOX, some from PBS—each has its own perspective, its own slant on the news. Some people listen to Canadian news channels and some listen to the BBC, to get those specific perspectives. Some want to get a local perspective so they listen to local news, whereas others want the big picture, so they listen to the national and international news. If you really wanted to get the best understanding of what's happening, you'd listen to all of them, because then you'd see the news from all angles and have the fullest picture. (But that would mean you were sitting in front of the TV or computer all day long, so I don't actually advise doing that!) When an ancient council gathered to decide which books would be included in the New Testament and which would not, they thought all four of these books should be included. Incidentally, there were other gospels around at that time that were not included, for example the Gospel of Thomas. Every so often someone will find out there are other ancient writings that were excluded and get into a froth about that. They suspect that someone is trying to pull the wool over their eyes by "hiding" those other books, but they are wrong about that. It is simply a matter of our trusting the judgment of that earliest Church when they decided what was reliable and what was not. The Gospel of Mark was the first one written, and in comparison with the others, it is almost like a bare outline of the action. You could think of Mark as the first reporter on the scene, who just reported the basics of the situation. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke came later. They included the basics that Mark had, and filled out the story more: each had access to information the other didn't have. Matthew was a Jew who became a Christian, whereas Luke was a Gentile who became a Christian. Think of them as interviewing different people and reporting the side of the story that would be of interest to their particular constituency. The Gospel of John is a whole 'nother thing again, because John was not so much reporting as he was editorializing, thinking about what it all meant. There are some minor differences between the facts they report—for example, they differ somewhat on when particular events took place. It is

understandable when you consider that none of this got put into writing until about thirty years after it all happened! At first, the good news was spread by word of mouth, because they expected Jesus to return at any moment—no one was thinking of writing a book in the days immediately following the resurrection! It was only when the first generation of disciples began to die off that they realized they'd better write their story down to preserve it for the generations to come. During May I will be offering a study of Luke's Gospel and the book of Acts, (Luke's follow-up history of the earliest Church). We'll meet on Tuesday nights from 7 to 8 in the parish hall. No preparation necessary, as we will read and discuss it together, after I have presented a bit of background information. All are welcome to join us—please help spread the word!

Sr. Warden Report...

It looks like spring has arrived!! Sunny blue skies, birds singing and lots of flowers out in full bloom.

As many of you know, we participated in the Solar Eclipse Event that Wilson held at Krueger Park. The weather was not real cooperative and the crowd was not as large as they had hoped. We did well on our fund raiser of selling hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and beverages. Our profit was \$601 which we donated 10% of to the Wilson Food Pantry. Thank you to Frank for coordinating it and Lois and Vicki for helping with filling orders, collecting money and for packing everything up.

The plumbing issue which we have been dealing with has been repaired. I am sure we will see the reduction in the water bill along with the gas bill. Again, if anyone would like to make a donation to help offset that expense, just make a note on the memo line on your check or note the envelope with "Repairs".

I attended a seminar for Wardens this past Saturday. It was good to see many that I have met prior and to hear and discuss different viewpoints and issues other churches are facing.

As always, feel free to contact me any time with questions, concerns or suggestions. Call, text or email me.

Moving forward with God,
Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869
lucykraatz@aol.com

Vestry...

Below are highlights from our April Vestry meeting:

- Pastor Susan brought in flyers for the annual Police Memorial Service to be held on Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's in Niagara Falls. All are welcome to attend.
- St. John's has obtained a booth for the LEON Festival on Saturday, June 15th. We will be selling ice cream, water, etc. Frank Boeck has donated the use of his freezer as we will have a booth with electric this year.
- Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry will end his term at the end of this year. Bishop Sean has been nominated for this position. An email has been sent out to everyone with FAQ's and nominee information.
- Our Vestry meeting in May has been changed to Wednesday, May 15th.
- Light bulbs will be changed in the office overhead light.
- Tim Pinn will be doing the plumbing work for the broken pipes on Monday and Tuesday the 22nd and 23rd.
- The Village of Wilson has inspected the water lines coming in from the street and all is fine.
- Enviro Pest will be starting their quarterly visits soon to spray for any insects.
- Many thanks to everyone that helped on the Total Solar Eclipse Event we made \$601.
- A new motor will be installed in the fan above the stove in the kitchen.
- Mother's Day Brunch will be served by the men.
- Our Annual Perennial Sale will be held on Saturday, May 4th starting at 9:00 a.m. and will be held inside. Any donations will be accepted.

Jennifer Farwell-Puskas
Clerk of Vestry

Birthdays...

Lucy Kraatz May 6
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas May 9
Jerilyn Carney May 12



Anniversaries...

None this month

Buildings & Grounds...

The fan over the stove/oven started making strange sounds so I had a repair man come in and take a look at it. It has been replaced and all is well. We DO NOT need to leave it running 24/7 as we had been advised previously.

Thank you to those that have taken care of the flower beds and lawn. It is so appreciated.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime.
Lucy Kraatz
Chairman, Buildings & Grounds

Treasurer's Report...

January - March 2024

Income:	\$ 7,312.83
Expense:	\$ <u>7,904.89</u>
Total:	\$ -592.06
Dividends:	\$ <u>1,042.41</u>
Total:	\$ 450.35

Many thanks to everyone that helped and donated towards this years Perennial Sale on Saturday, May 4th.

Jennifer Farwell-Puskas

Please keep the following in your prayers: Barb and her family, Will, Brian, Kelly, Heather, Rom LeMay, Nick, Owen Wright, Brian, Emily, Jack, Eric, Megan, Betty, Dana, Pamela, Josh, Jon & Kacee, Craig, Deidre, Sandy, Ron, Margaret, Jessica, Jeffrey, Zack, Cassie, Brandi, Don, Lizzy, Rose, Laura, Terry, Michael, Lilyana, the Schroeder family; Bonnie & Bill; Al, Christianna & their unborn baby; the Faqiri Family, and our prayer partner, St. John's, Youngstown. We pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine, and for those affected by storms in the mid-West.





With spring, things always look better. For our neighbors, friends and families that need the assistance from the Food Pantry, the need knows no season. That need is always there. For the month of May we are collecting packaged cookies for the Food Pantry. No special kind or brand so you get to choose. Do not be concerned re: peanut allergies per Janet. The cookies can be left in the back of the church. Every donation is greatly appreciated by all.

I am always open to suggestions, concerns or questions.

Lucy Kraatz



Come one come all !!!

The Fellowship Committee will be coordinating a Mother's Day brunch after our 9:30 church service. Courtney Brown is helping me stir up the men to help on Sunday, May 12th. Men don't be shy; Courtney will have something for you to do!!!

God is Good
Priscilla

SJC Moms Group...

SJC MOMS is winding down this month for summer vacation. Their trip for lunch after their April 24th meeting at Brownies ended up being cupcakes after their meeting instead. We are hoping for sunshine on Wednesday, May 8th so we will be able to go then. Childcare volunteers are invited to join!



The moms will decorate and fill "snackle boxes" for the little ones on May 8th. Perfect to refill as they head into the summer months and their kids want to snack all day long. Great idea Megan!

Our last meeting will be May 22nd.

GOD is GOOD.
Priscilla



Special thank you to Vicki Jancef for her continued care in keeping the Easter flowers looking so well, for several weeks in church.



**St. John's Episcopal Church
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED