

St John Church of Christ

August 29, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00



Pelicans & Christianity

Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here. Bible classes begin at 10:00. For kids, Pete & Penelope, our children's puppet program, is followed by songs and classes.

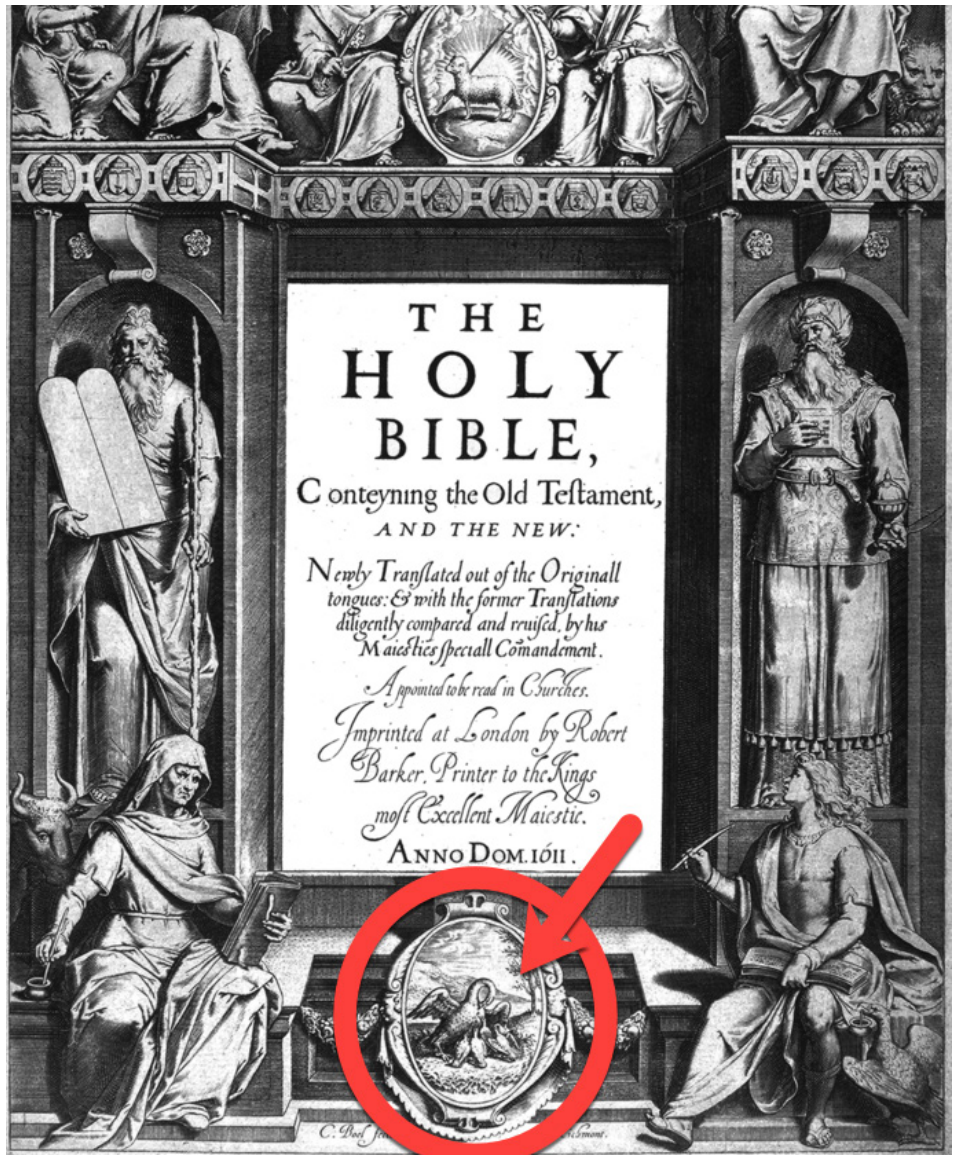
Join us this fall as we dig into the fascinating book of Revelation. Perhaps no other book of the Bible has been as abused at Revelation. Come learn how a better understanding of "apocalyptic literature" can open doors of insight into the last book of the Bible. Class begins at 10:00 A.M. with worship following at 11:00 A.M.

If you are unable to be with us in person, our worship is shared through our website:

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

Simply select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

[St. John Church of Christ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3)



Pelicans are funny looking birds. They have long, thick bills with a pouch for catching fish beneath. As they dive for fish, they thrust their heads into the water at the last minute to catch their prey before their whole body follows with an awkward crash into the sea. On the other hand, nothing is more magnificent than a flight of pelicans skimming together in close-packed formation inch-

es above the waves with their fantastic wings barely moving. They are a familiar bird to Southern Californians, but did you know they were also an early symbol of Christianity?

Most people know the cross is a Christian symbol. Some know the same is true of the simple fish, but starting in the sec-

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ond century, the pelican also became a Christian symbol. They are common in stained glass windows and carved into massive cathedral doors. There is a line in the 12th-century hymn "Humbly we adore Thee" that describes Christ as the "loving pelican divine." Queen Elizabeth of England chose the pelican as her symbol, and at the top of the title page of the very first King James Bible (1611), there is an etching of a pelican feeding her young.

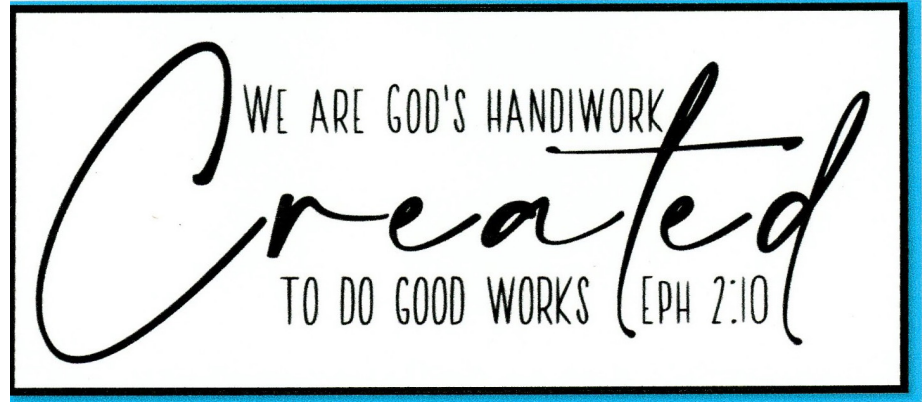
We can understand the symbol of the cross – that's where Jesus died. We understand the symbol of the lamb since the gentle, sacrificial lamb often represents Christ in the Bible. What about the fish? The letters from the Greek word for fish (ichthus) represent the first letters of the Greek phrase for "Jesus Christ God's Son and Savior," but how did the pelican come to symbolize Christianity?

For the answer to that question, we need to visit Alexandria, Egypt, in the Second Century. A Christian author penned a book of morals for children. In it, he described various animals, birds, plants, and even stones. He would describe one of these and then its special attributes and encourage children to imitate them. The book is called Physiology. It's still available. (Although initially written in Greek, it's been translated into Latin, Syriac, English, and a host of other languages. See Amazon.com.) It's richly decorated and was very, very popular.

So how does this relate to the pelican becoming a symbol of Christianity? Have you ever watched a pelican at rest? Her beak often lays on her breast, and they characteristically rub it up and down. The Mediterranean pelican's pouch is blood red during mating season. Thus, the legend was born that a mother pelican will pierce her breast and heroically feed her children on her blood in times of famine. As a result, the pelican came to symbolize the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave his blood that we might live



Stafford County



Silver Maple Camp **LADIES RETREAT**

Friday, September 24 - Saturday, September 25, 2021 will be the dates for the annual Silver Maple Camp Ladies Retreat. Registration at the door begins at 4:30 p.m. Friday and supper will be served starting at 6:00 p.m. but the preferred and easy pre-registration and payments are online at silvermaplecamp.org.

This year's event is going to be fun, informative, and interactive! We can't wait for you to join us!

The cost is only \$50 (\$20 for Friday only - \$25 for Saturday only). RV hook-ups for an additional \$10.

There will be special missions and vendor tables set up for information and shopping. Shirst will also be available for purchase with the 2021 SMC Ladies Retreat theme.

Questions? call LeAnn Hodson at 620-842-2292.

News & Prayer Requests

Thank you for your prayers! Covid is still active in our community, but the numbers are declining. We are able to resume worship services on Sunday mornings at Leisure Homestead.

School has resumed for most of our students, teachers and staff this week, so we want to cover them especially in prayer. It's an exciting time of year!



Key Dates

Save the Date!

The ladies of the Garden City Church of Christ invite you and your friends to join us Saturday, October 9th for a day of fellowship. Details are coming.

Leisure Homestead

Join us every Sunday morning at 9:30 for prayers, songs, and a devotional with the residents at the assisted living center