

# The Eagle



April 2020

New Series Volume MMXX No 4, 2020

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a reconciling in Christ congregation*

330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles, Pastor  
Matthew Kayhart, Vicar

phone: 610-258-6119

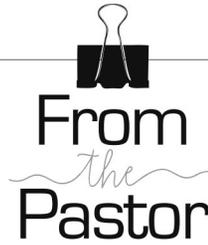
e-mail: [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)

website: [stjohnseaston.org](http://stjohnseaston.org)

(currently Sunday school is suspended due to pandemic)

Sunday Worship 10:30am

Newsletter Submissions to:  
[Newsletter@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Newsletter@stjohnseaston.org)



Dear believers,

It has been a very difficult month for so many people across the world. 'How long O Lord?' many wonder quoting the Psalmist. Murmuring prayers, many are learning a new way to gather together (or not), visit those in nursing homes, figure out school lessons for children isolated and even at St. John's we have tried new ways to worship.

Did you see the news report of the 6 year old girl who quoted scripture to her autistic brother? She stated the words from 2 Timothy chapter 1 when he was shaking with fear. Perhaps we can all memorize the verse when things seem more and more out of control. (New Living Translation)

*"For this reason I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline."*

You may not be laying hands on anyone right now. That is OK. But remember there was a time when you were marked with a hand dipped in water. A hand splashed some water on you and marked you with the spirit of power in holy baptism.

Look throughout this newsletter and check out the church's websites for additional ways you can lay your hands (figuratively) and give your hearts to the many people who are suffering. Remember those who are lonely and afraid. Remember those who are mourning. Remember those are working to make things better for others. Remember to be in prayer.

In HIS name,

Pastor Sue Ruggles

## CHURCH SCHEDULE UPDATE . . .

With the pandemic, we have taken the following precautions...

1. Sunday school is suspended including breakfast and van transportation. Check the web site for updates.
2. All meetings (committee/planning/instructional) are suspended (contact your committee chair for further information.) Choir is not meeting unless you are called by Jessica.
3. Worship is being held (when we can) at 10:30 for those who feel comfortable joining. It will include prayers and readings. Communion will be as offered if possible. (Please don't come if you are sick or think you might be sick.)

We continue to be a church who is encouraging prayers for all. The church office will continue to ask for people to help where and when the needs arise.

Thank you to all of you for your leadership, patience and most of all, your prayers for the people in our community.

Please be advised we are taking things day by day.



PRAY: God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Some poems and writings are in the form of acrostic which means each line spells something or is alphabetical order. The Tuesday Bible group studied these in the Hebrew for example, Psalms 25, 119 and Proverbs 31:10-31; the first 4 books of *Lamentations*. Please enjoy these acrostic writings and try your own!**

***Abba, Father  
Blessed is your name  
Creator of the universe, you provide for every need  
Deliver us from our sinful ways  
Empower us to do our work in your name and with your love  
Forever be our guide  
Giver of life and salvation  
Have mercy on us, your people  
Instill in us your ways  
Judge us according to your word  
Keep us safe from harm  
Loving Lord  
Make us strong in your ways  
Nothing measures up to your majestic power  
Omnipotent God  
Praise be to you  
Quiet our hearts, so we may hear your word  
Rescue us from our temptations  
Speak to us with your wisdom  
Through our trials and temptations let us trust in you, O Lord  
Unique are your ways  
Victorious Lord  
We praise your Holy name  
X-ray our heart, mind and soul and make us pure  
You only will we praise, honor and glorify  
Zealously, we wait for you return.***

**-by Phyllis Schurz**



**An acrostic writing called "Pray God!"**

**All people are welcome here.  
Before Christ (meaning in His presence)  
Calling us to worship together (God)  
Developing in fellowship; Don't forget to pray  
Everyone's knee will bend  
Forever yours through Christ, AMEN.  
Gather our souls like sheep and give us this day  
Here I am, Lord; Hallowed be thy name.  
In God's name we trust!  
Justice is only for God's will  
Kindred spirits join together and know that God is good  
Love one another  
Marvelous are Jesus's works!  
    *Many are called but few are chosen.*  
Never lose hope, your faith or spirit!  
Open your heart and mind;  
Praise God through Christ our Lord  
Quiet times are for meditation to hear God's voice  
Readily come before our God!  
Stay in the Word  
Try to be a good Christian  
Understanding God's word is like understanding God!  
Various people are given gifts from God, Use them!  
We were not there when God created Earth  
Exalt in the Lord our God  
You must receive Christ to ensure your salvation  
Zero sins can God face, always pray to be forgiven of them**

**--by Ruth Thomas**

**Think you can do it? How about asking the youth in your house to give it a try!**

**No rules. The first letters can spell something, the first letters can be the alphabet, first letters can give a message.**

**Challenged? E-mail us your poems, maybe yours will be in next months newsletter . . .**



## **Worship Schedule —April 10:30 AM**

NOTE: Since we are not sure who/when/what worship looks like from week to week, we are not listing names this month. Hopefully, when worship is held, before it begins we can tap someone to help! Check the webpage or call the church for updated information.

### **Apr. 5 - Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday**

Reading: Matthew 26:14-27:66

### **Apr. 9 - Maundy Thursday (service on-line)**

Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Apr. 10 - Good Friday (service on-line)**

Reading: John 18:1--19:42

### **Apr. 12 - Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day**

Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

### **Apr. 19 - 2nd Sunday of Easter**

Reading: John 20:19-31

### **Apr. 26 - 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Reading: Luke 24:13-35



Note: The church will gladly accept your contributions through the mail. Our budget may be affected by this pandemic. Please try to continue your stewardship throughout the weeks while we all try to stay healthy.

# Keeping Informed

- Like many, getting information electronically is a preferred method. To include everyone, we are asking that if you did not

receive an email notice through our MAILCHIMP program that you notify the church office at [admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:admin@stjohnseaston.org). We will gladly add your name.

- Our desire is the mass emails will continue as before with worship updates, special program announcements and death of perishers.
- In addition, the website is the best source for updated information. If you do not have good computer access or prefer not to use the internet, PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE (610-258-6119). You will be mailed worship and devotion information for you to use at home.
- **Stay tuned for Worship Services and Devotions available online. Look for a link and directions on our website at [WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG)**

## Outreach Program of the Month Postponed . . . Blessing of the Animals

Please consider mailing a donation to **The Center for Animal Health and Welfare** as they continue to need our support. Adoptions may decrease as people are staying home. This means less donations to the shelter and more animals to care for. Therefore, any donation would be very helpful.



1165 Island Park Rd, Easton, PA 18042

A Note from Vicar Danielle Bosdell . . .

Hi All,



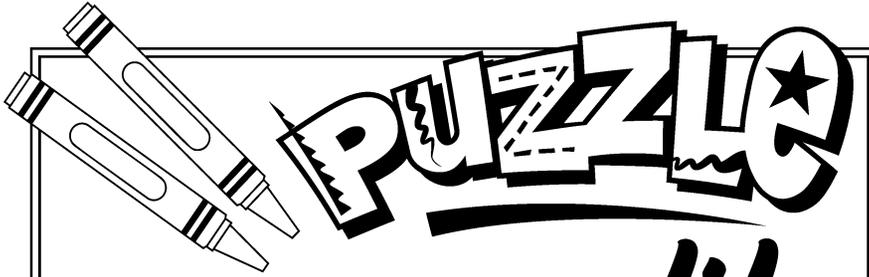
I Hope you all are having a blessed Lenten journey. I was pleasantly surprised by the food bank donation in my mailbox recently. The generosity from you all has been a tremendous help to all those living on campus this year! On behalf of those individuals and myself, please know that we really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Also, I would like to share that I found out I have been assigned to the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA; meaning Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, or Alabama. Therefore, back to the South I go. Kim and myself are excited for what is to come and covet your prayers as I now begin to seek "First Call" after graduation. Thank you all so much for your continued support!

With Love,

M. Danielle Bosdell





# Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

*Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.*

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)



Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)



Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)



This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)



Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)



Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)



Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)



While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)



This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)



These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)



These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)



Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linen, silver coins

## ORGAN RENOVATION & CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



The Capital Campaign, at the end of February 2020 has reached \$18,934. The continued support is appreciated. Thank you to those members who are supporting the Campaign so faithfully without making a pledge. The Renovations on the Organ continue. At this writing 50% of the pipes have been cleaned and 33 1/3% of the leathering has been completed. Thank you to everyone for their patience as we miss the Organ.

Steve Moyer, Treasurer

**The Gallery at St. John's**  
*Art for your Appreciation and Purchase*

***"We regret that due to the Coronavirus pandemic all gallery events have been canceled until further notice."***

***Any questions can be answered by calling the office @ 610-258-6119.***



The church office will be open on a condensed schedule until further notice. Please find someone in the office, Monday—Friday from 9:00-12:00 pm.

You can also always leave a message on the church voicemail, messages will be checked and responded to

**Outreach Committee**  
*April* Benevolence

Next time you are shopping,  
pick up an item for one of the  
programs we support!

**Back Pack Buddies** (Canned Pasta / Ravioli,  
individual sizes or large cans. Pop-Top's preferred.)

**Family Connection** (New packaged socks, and  
underwear for adults and children.)

**Meals on Wheels** (Paper napkins & ballpoint pens)

**Project Food Pantry** (Rice, Instant Potatoes,  
Hamburger Helper, Condiments, Low Sodium  
Soups / Stews, Jam & Jellies, Canned Vegetables,  
Lunchbox sized items, Personal Care Items.

**Safe Harbor** (Sugar, Pancake Mix / Syrup, Ice Tea  
Mix, Paper Cups, Paper Napkins, Paper Plates, Paper  
Towels, Plastic Silverware, Air Freshener Sprays,  
Laundry Detergent, Tissues, Plastic Grocery Bags,  
Backpacks, Duffle Bags, Men's T-Shirts,  
White Copy Paper)

*As always,  
Outreach Thanks you for  
your support of these  
programs.*



**BIRTHDAYS  
& Anniversaries**

**April Birthdays . . .**

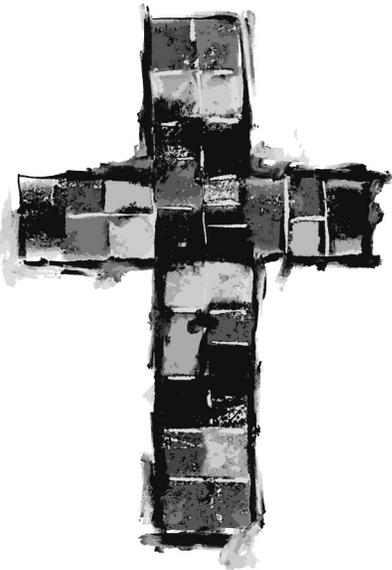
- 4/2—Shirley Kressler
- 4/3—Derek Collins
- 4/4—Morgan Greenleaf
- 4/4—Howard Lewis
- 4/7—Susan Romano
- 4/9—Stella Austin
- 4/10—Phyllis Good
- 4/10—Peggy Pitt
- 4/14—Jean Brown
- 4/15—Barbara McCoy
- 4/16—Kristal Americus
- 4/19—Katie Fritchman

- 4/21—Erin Seiple
- 4/22—Eva Seiple
- 4/22—James Heck
- 4/23—Barbara Wilhelm
- 4/24—Amir Flucker
- 4/24—Janet Heffner
- 4/25—Tika Cressman
- 4/26—Jean Shook
- 4/27—Anne Kovac
- 4/27—Jordyn Ruggles
- 4/30—Rhemy Golab

**April Anniversaries. . .**

- 4/27—Alison & Shawn Fink

(\*If you were missed, please contact the church office.)



Please sign up  
for Altar Flowers . . .

April and May  
Open Dates -

4/12, 4/19, 4/26,  
5/3, 5/24,

**Note: The Outreach Committee is suspending the collection of Women's clothing for "My Sister's Closet"**

(As a precautionary measure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, My Sister's Closet has temporarily closed until further notice.)

We will not be accepting donations until after March 30th. )



*Have you checked out our Church Library?*

We have tons of great books for all ages . . .

Are you looking for a *Devotional* maybe something *Inspirational* . . .

We have books on *Religion* including *Religious Educational Books, Bibles, Religious Fiction* and *Non Fiction* . . . Maybe some *Children's Books* are on your list . . .



## Staff Directory:

**St. John's Office Phone:** 610-258-6119  
**Office Hours:** Monday—Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Staff	E-Mail
Pastor - Susan Ruggles	Pastor@stjohnseaston.org
Vicar - Matthew Kayhart	Vicar@stjohnseaston.org
Office / Admin. - Melissa Dean	Admin@stjohnseaston.org
Property Manager - Tyler VanAllen	Property@stjohnseaston.org
Director of Music - Jessica Madow	Music@stjohnseaston.org
Sexton - Michelle Fritzo	Sexton@stjohnseaston.org
Newsletter	Newsletter@stjohnseaston.org

\*Note - Alison Fink (Nursery) and Lenny Fredericks (Van Driver) can be reached through the church office.

Note: The Church Newsletter and Calendar are available online for your viewing @ [WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG)  
 If you would like to discontinue your paper copy delivery, please contact the church office.  
 (610-258-6119)

### Synod News:

If you would like to read the Synod News. Please find it online @:

[www.nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news/](http://www.nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news/).

NON-PROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 EASTON PA  
 PERMIT #310

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 330 FERRY STREET  
 EASTON PA 18042-4539  
 610-258-6119  
 (ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)

