

# The Eagle



December 2020

New Series Volume MMXX No 12, 2020

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a reconciling in Christ congregation*

330 Ferry Street,      Easton, PA 18042

The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles, Pastor  
Jessica Madow, Director of Music

phone: 610-258-6119  
e-mail: [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)  
website: [stjohnseaston.org](http://stjohnseaston.org)

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



December, 2020

The young mother looked ahead at the horizon where she thought she saw the beginnings of some outlying buildings indicating a city. They were almost there! It had been such an arduous trip already and she was longing to rest. The trip may be soon over, but how long the wait was still unknown. Her body changed and the time to deliver the baby, this special baby was upon her. She found herself being filled with feelings of joy, wonderment and pondering. One of the few comforts she held onto was the love she shared with her husband, this unborn child and her complete trust in the God of Abraham . . .

We know this story. We might visualize everything through rose colored glasses: journey with smooth roads, peaceful welcome, beautiful starry night, clean bedding, kindness everywhere. Reality of life says sometimes things are hard. Ruts on the path, shouting voices, dirt, smells, fear, uncertainty, and sometimes doubt. From this Christmas story we know so well, we hear and cling to the messages of profound hope.

I asked my six-year old granddaughter if she knew what the word ‘hope’ meant. She paused, looked up to the ceiling and said, “I don’t think I know what that means”. I next put the word in a sentence. “I hope to get a pony as a Christmas present. Now, what do you think it means?” She paused and said, “Hope means you really, really wish something to happen”. This Christmas, in the year 2020, there is much we wish and we want. Hope.

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HOPE • LOVE • PEACE • JOY

Christmas hope was: Mary looking towards Bethlehem knowing her trip would be over and she could rest. Hope was hearing news of a birth and waiting for the one who would be called Son of God, Most High. Hope is knowing and trusting that nothing is impossible with God.

Recently, I heard a song by Matthew West "*The Hope of Christmas*" where he mentions his childhood Christmas had specific memories.

"*These days*" he says it is different.

In the song, he uses the words:

"*You're still the hope of Christmas*"

when describing Jesus.

The message of STILL the hope of Christmas remains fresh today. When Jesus was born, he brought hope to the world. Over time, the hope of the Christ child is as real today as always.

"*The Hope of Christmas*", refrain:

"*You're still the hope of Christmas.*

*You're still the light when the world looks dark.*

*You're still the hope of Christmas.*

*You're still the hope of my heart."*

Let us keep hope in our hearts this Christmas.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Sue



## Please Join Us!



Who: **YOU**

What: **Congregational Meeting**

Where: **via "Zoom" (if we are worshiping in the sanctuary, we will offer the meeting in the sanctuary too.)**

When: **December 6th, 12:00 pm**

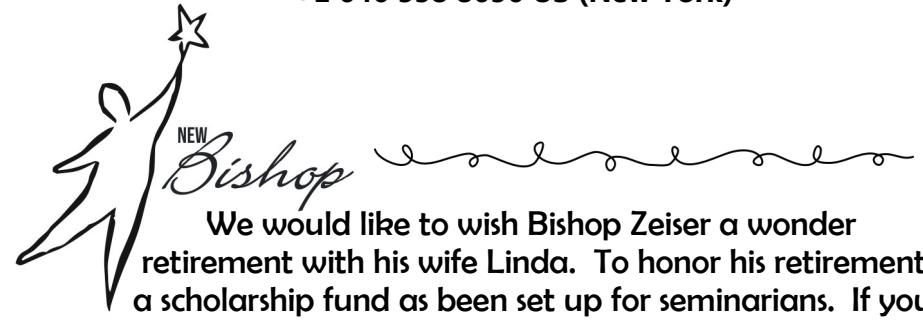
<https://zoom.us>

**Meeting ID: 957 6573 9507**

**Passcode: stjohns**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**



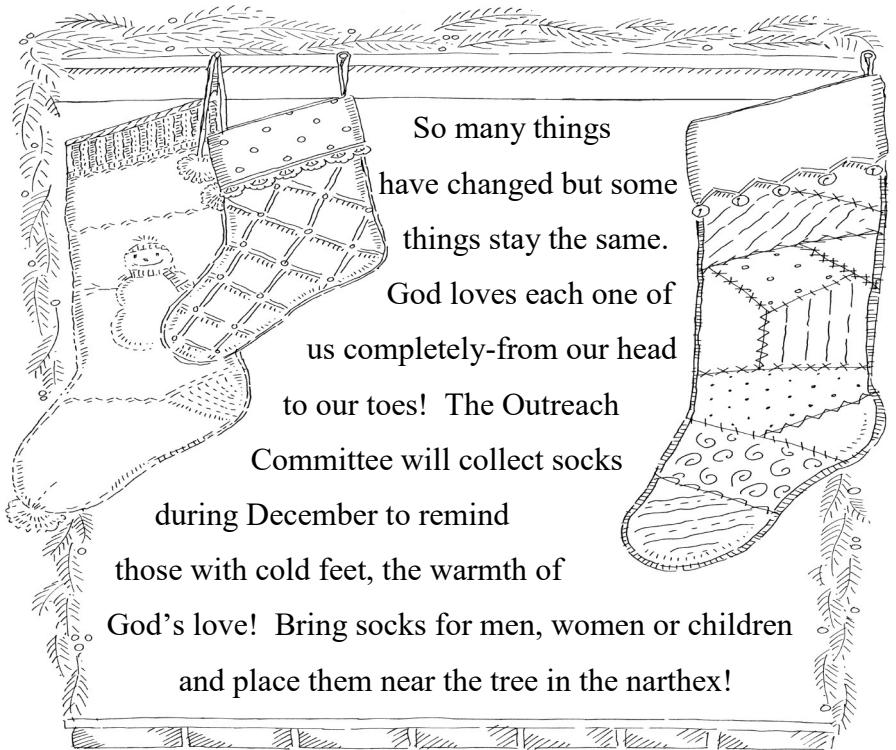
We would like to wish Bishop Zeiser a wonderful retirement with his wife Linda. To honor his retirement a scholarship fund has been set up for seminarians. If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to the church office with a note marking it for the Bishop Zeiser fund by December 13th.

**Let us welcome the Bishop Elect:  
Pastor Christopher deForest.**

Pastor deForest will be installed at a later date.

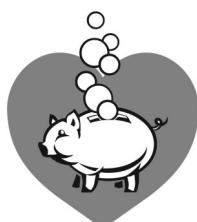
*Note: As of this printing, we do not know when we will be worshiping back in the Sanctuary. As a benchmark, when the Easton Area School District opens back up, St. John's will be worshiping in the Sanctuary and Online. Come as you feel comfortable. Call the church office or visit our webpage for up to date details.*

## Outreach *Sock* Collection



So many things have changed but some things stay the same. God loves each one of us completely—from our head to our toes! The Outreach Committee will collect socks during December to remind those with cold feet, the warmth of God's love! Bring socks for men, women or children and place them near the tree in the narthex!

Contributions can always be mailed to the Church @ 330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042



Would you like to make an appointment for Holy Communion? We are still accommodating those who chose not to attend church due to Covid19. Please call the office to set up a time.



December – 10:30 am

Your patience is appreciated. Please check our website, or call the church office for the most up to date information. Thanks! An email will go out if we are worshiping in the Sanctuary, otherwise, join us online!

### December 6      Second Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Blue  
Reading: Mark 1:1-8  
Advent Wreath Lighters: Ruth & Brad Thomas  
Reader: Lynn Kutch

### December 13      Third Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Blue  
Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28  
Advent Wreath Lighter: Connie Garr  
Reader: Cindy Black

### December 20      Fourth Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Blue  
Reading: Luke 1:26-38  
Advent Wreath Lighters: Carolyn & Steve Moyer  
Reader: Monica Weiss-Nolen

### December 24      Christmas Eve—5:00 pm

Liturgical Color: White  
Reading: Luke 2:1-20  
Reader: Roger Ruggles

### December 24      Christmas Eve—7:00 pm

Liturgical Color: White  
Reading: Luke 2:1-20  
Reader: Jim Heck



Peace &  
Goodwill  
to All

December 27

First Sunday of Christmas

Liturgical Color:

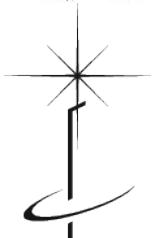
White

Reading:

Luke 2:22-40

Reader:

Joyce Petty



SILENT  
NIGHT

Please Join Us Christmas Eve to find JOYin Worship!

Come feel Welcome and Secure and ENJOY Christmas Eve.

(If we are able ...)

All COVID protocols will be followed to ensure safety.  
(socially distanced pews, masks required, fresh air circulation, ushering of guests in and out, etc ...)

Our Sanctuary can easily fit 185 people in marked distanced pews, with additional seating for higher risk guests if necessary. If you have a large family, (more than 4 people), you can reserve a longer pew for you to enjoy church together. Please call the Church Office to make a reservation today!

The Services will include: Candlelight, Special Music, and the quiet humming of your favorite songs.

Tentative Services are offered @ 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

(If we are worshiping together online, please have a candle ready for the singing of *Silent Night!*)

<sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

- Matthew 1:21



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		1	2
6 Congregational Meeting 12:00 pm	7		9 Cou Rep Du
13	14 Council Mtg. - Chapel 7:00 pm		16
20 Property - 12:00 pm	21		23
27	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office

# er 2020

	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	3 New Testament Bible Study Zoom—5:30 pm	4	5
ncil orts ue	10 New Testament Bible Study Zoom—5:30 pm	11 Newsletter Deadline	12
	17 New Testament Bible Study Zoom—5:30 pm	18	19
	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Office Closed	26
Closed	31 Office Closed	January 1 (Office Closed)	

## Advent 2020 – *A Virtual Experience*

Advent arrives this year on November 29<sup>th</sup> with the First Sunday in Advent.

**Please join and share with us this opportunity to worship this Advent season . . .**

**WEDNESDAYS – On your computer, In your home!**

*We will be sharing worship with the St. Andrew's congregation via "ZOOM" online meeting service. Worship will be at 7:00pm.*

*These worship experiences will be meditative in nature. Be prepared to use an Advent wreath with blue candles (blue is a symbol of hope) that we will light at the beginning of worship.*

Week 1: Wednesday, December 2 - We meditate on . . .  
"The Creative Breath"

Week 2: Wednesday, December 9 - We consider . . .  
"Light and Darkness"

Week 3: Wednesday, December 16 - We focus on . . .  
"Birth and Re-birth"

Week 4: Wednesday, December 23 – Finding Hope . . .  
"A Healing Christmas"

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Again, these are via ZOOM on your computer. **If you need assistance, contact Pastor.**

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**Find the Zoom log on information below:**

**Meeting ID: 840 0720 0910**

**Passcode: 661248**



**Dial by your location:**  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

*(Bulletins for these services will be available on our website.)*





Every year, we offer the congregation the opportunity to purchase Poinsettias to help beautify the church for Christmas, in honor or memory of loved ones.

This year, as we prepare for Christmas, worship in the sanctuary, is not guaranteed. In such a time of uncertainty we are offering a limited number of Poinsetta dedications (to those who will take them home on Christmas Eve) and a more sustainable option as a decorating theme.

We are collecting monies to purchase, or food items that are "RED" in color to create a "Tree of Giving" in the front corner of the Sanctuary. (Think red cereal boxes, red pasta boxes, red soup cans.) These food items will be donated to the Project of Easton to help those in our community this holiday season.

**Poinsettia / Holiday Food Dedication Form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to dedicate a Poinsettia, \$7.00 / plant. I will take home the plant after the worship service on Christmas Eve.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate money for food, \$7.00, or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to purchase your own "RED" food products for display, please bring them to the church by 12/20/20. Also, if you would like a dedication for your donation, please contact the church office.



## Outreach Committee December Benevolence



Third Street Alliance for Women and Children is a non - profit organization located at 41 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in downtown Easton. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for members of the community, with special emphasis on women and children. The programs and services available at Third Street

Alliance are intended for every member of the local community. They offer affordable childcare, wellness and recreation classes for all ages and skill levels, shelter to homeless women and children.

**For our December benevolence, St. John's will donate \$750.00 to help them continue this important work.**

For more information about Third Street Alliance, call 610-258-6271 or check out their website at [www.thirdstreetalliance.org](http://www.thirdstreetalliance.org)



**Collecting:**  
Cereal  
Oatmeal  
Crackers  
Soup  
Granola Bars

**As Always, Outreach Thanks You !**

**St. John's Office Phone:** 610-258-6119

**Office Hours:** by appointment

Staff	E-Mail
Pastor - Susan Ruggles	Pastor@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 Don Johnson (Driver) can be reached through the church office.



**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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/).

**Note: The Church Newsletter and Calendar are available online for your viewing.**

***Think about sending the link to a friend!***

**WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG**

**If you would like to discontinue your paper copy delivery,  
please contact the church office. (610-258-6119)**

(Phone and Email messages are checked daily.)

**Please take note of the Updated Budget for Outreach:**

		2016	2017	2018	2019	10/20	2020	2021
116-09-02-01	Outreach	45	140	45	219	75	200	200
116-09-02-02	Visitor Follow up	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
116-09-02-03	Community Network	25	25	0	0	0	50	50
116-09-02-04	Advertising	671	342	271	25	0	650	0
116-09-02-05	Community Event	500	0	0	0	0	524	561
116-09-02-06	Safe Harbor Lunches	583	764	614	449	492	840	910
116-09-02-07	Rachel Circle						100	
<i>Total Outreach</i>		1824	1271	930	693	567	2264	2021



Check it out ...

*Sunday's  
in  
December*

~ 6:00 pm ~

The Church  
Carillons will play  
**Christmas** Hymns,  
and the  
Bell Tower  
will be lit.

Come out and  
enjoy **Christmas**  
in the City.



Altar Flowers  
Dedications /  
Memorials



December 6th,  
and 27th are  
available.

Also

Jan. & Feb. dates.

Cost \$30.00  
Please call the  
church office to  
sign-up.

Welcome New Members

Introducing...

Helen & John Border  
Patricia Fisher  
Eleanor Gable  
Dixie Mooney  
Susan Worman



 **DECEMBER**  
Celebrations

Birthdays . . .

- 12/01—Kerrin Richard
- 12/04—Brendan Betts
- 12/10—Elda Peil
- 12/11—Elijah Mack
- 12/13—Christine Smith
- 12/14—Diana Tigar
- 12/16—Susan Deonis
- 12/17—Sharon Rabuck
- 12/20—John Fritchman
- 12/20—Elizabeth Fritzo
- 12/20—Matthew Hammerstone
- 12/24—James Kressler
- 12/26—Russel Howey
- 12/27—Janet Sigafoos
- 12/28—Loretta Heck
- 12/31—Elizabeth Transue

Anniversaries . . .

- 12/19—Beverly & Howard Lewis
- 12/27—Kerrin & Timothy Richard
- 12/30—MariAn & Curtis Olson
- 12/31—Tera & Todd Burnett

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

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)

