

# The Eagle



June 2020

New Series Volume MMXX No 6, 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  
Jessica Madow, Director of Music

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



## From the Vicar . . .

Are you all steamed up? When the pressures of life causes us to come to a boil, with the power of God we can pull through. Life certainly is different in these times and can cause us a lot of angst, but with God, we can get through anything.

That is one of the main lessons in this year's Vacation Bible School program, Rocky Railway. Youth will learn about working with God to pull through when times can be tough.

This Year VBS is going to look a little different. There will be a mixture of online and at home content designed to engage everyone. Lessons and stations will be interactive through videos and items such as crafts and science projects. Kits will be available with all the needed supplies to all those involved to join in the fun. **Dates for this year are from August 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Please notify the Church office if you are interested in participating by **July 6<sup>th</sup>** so that a kit will be prepared for you. If you are interested in becoming an adult volunteer and chugging through the tough tracks ahead, (assisting with kits, being a station leader to record sessions / activities / crafts), please notify the Vicar by **June 19<sup>th</sup>**, either by calling the church office or email at [Vicar@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Vicar@stjohnseaston.org).

God's blessings as we steam ahead and Choo, Choo, Choo through together. Peace, Vicar Matt





## On Holy Communion . . .

There has been much discussion (and debate) about what to do about communion when we can't safely gather for worship!

Churches are experimenting with many different ideas. Things like 'drive-thru' Holy Communion, delivery to people's houses, and virtual (as seen on TV) methods are some of the solutions.

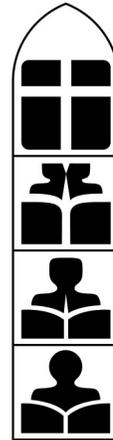
As a Lutheran pastor, I feel the sacrament is important as often as we possibly can. I saw a sign on a church that said, 'didn't know I would be giving up communion for Lent'. Now Lent is over, we finished Easter and are into Pentecost. We are not sure when we will meet again. What about communion?

I want to experiment with another way to bring/give communion to those who desire one of the most sacred things the church has to offer. Although the clever method, "drive-thru" might not be as safe for all involved, delivering to homes and leaving a communion 'package' takes away the physical presence of a community. Remotely sharing communion and the prayers said through a television speaker, also lack the community element. We must remember that many Christians had a history of not celebrating communion every week until the 16<sup>th</sup> century when conversations began about communing more often. It wasn't until the 1950s and 1960s that churches were influenced to treat Sundays as "little Easter celebrations", and hold Holy Communion weekly.

For years, pastors have taken communion to shut-ins or those who couldn't make it to church. Since that may be unsafe for the pastor today (going into/out of many homes) and for the parishioners, I am trying to think of a creative, yet meaningful way to offer communion.

Beginning in June, if you wish to receive communion, please call and set up an appointment for a Sunday mornings (9 AM – noon) and you will be ushered into the chapel with the Pastor and Vicar to receive communion. We have purchased individual communion sets where only YOU will touch the bread and the grape juice. Pastor and Vicar will offer prayers and a liturgy like we did for shut-ins. In our chapel, one person (or a couple) at a time will be invited to enter, wearing masks and we will meet together in a "smaller community" for communion as we wait out this pandemic. Appointments will be in 15 minute intervals and you can wait in your car until summoned inside. Let's try it. You can set up an appointment by calling the church office. (Phone calls only please, 610-258-6119.)

Pastor Sue



Learn  
&  
Grow

## Online Bible Study . . .

Are you interested in using your computer and meeting with others for a Bible study?

Beginning on June 3 at 5:30 PM, we will gather together virtually (from our computers) and read the Gospel book of Matthew, hear some comments and study this amazing book!

To participate, you must send an email to [pastor@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnseaston.org), (you will receive the information on how to join the zoom meeting.)

*Zoom is a video conferencing application that individuals can safely load onto their personal computer or phone and be included in a 'meeting'. You might want to download Zoom.com so your device is ready to participate.*

Join anytime, just let us know, and you will be added to the group.

"If you need any assistance, contact the church office (610) 258-6119 or [pastor@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnseaston.org).

## Do you know any High School / College Grads?

St. John's would like to recognize you and congratulate your achievements . . .

Please contact the church office or e-mail us the graduates name / school.



## June Birthdays . . .

- 6/1—Janel Ruggles
- 6/2—Sydney Hammerstone
- 6/4—Connie Garr
- 6/5—Hilda Kalapay
- 6/10—Carolyn Moyer
- 6/10—Roger Ruggles
- 6/15—Chris Swan
- 6/19—Judith Fenical
- 6/22—Stephen Remel
- 6/25—Barbara Robinson
- 6/26—Lois Anne Calloway
- 6/27—Beverly Lewis
- 6/27—Petra Taub



## June Anniversaries . . .

- 6/7—Rob & Darlene Smith
- 6/24—Peggy & Tony Pitt
- 6/26—Carolyn & Steve Moyer
- 6/28—Christine & Jeffery Skinner
- 6/29—Megan & Ian Heck



## In Rememberance



Give thanks to the God of  
Heaven, for God's  
steadfast love endures  
forever. Psalm 136:26

*Remembering those  
members who have  
passed . . .*

◇ Emma Sandt  
7/23/1933 - 5/17/2020



"We can help,  
we're  
carpenter  
ants!"



## Church Update . . .

To our dismay, we most likely will  
not be open in June.

Please be patient, stay healthy and  
keep checking the webpage, the

**YOUTUBE** channel and **facebook**  
for updates about St. John's.

Please continue to call one another and call the staff!

Every Sunday at noon, we ring the bells to  
remember those who are working hard to keep hope alive.  
You are welcome to come to the church parking lot and  
park, greet each other wearing your mask, and keep  
appropriate social distance during the ringing.

We are also planning a "PARKING LOT SOCIAL"  
for the middle of the month.

That will be June 15<sup>th</sup> this month at 6:00 PM.

Gather in the parking lot in your cars and say hi (from a  
distance of course) to people you haven't seen in a while.

If you are interested in staying safe at home and prefer to  
meet via the computer, Sunday mornings, we will offer a  
zoom social meeting. Please sign up at the church office.

To sign up, send an email indicating you wish to  
participate in the monthly zoom  
"Sunday Social Gathering".

(The first one will be June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM).



**"BE STRONG AND  
OF A GOOD COURAGE...  
FOR THE LORD THY GOD...  
WILL NOT FAIL THEE, NOR  
FORSAKE THEE."**

Deuteronomy 31:6

Weekly Worship Services  
are posted on our website at:

www.stjohnseaston.org.



You can also find other Information  
about Church, Prayer Lists, and  
Devotions,  
please check regularly for the latest updates.

E-mails will continue with worship  
updates, special program announcements  
and other news.

If you 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.



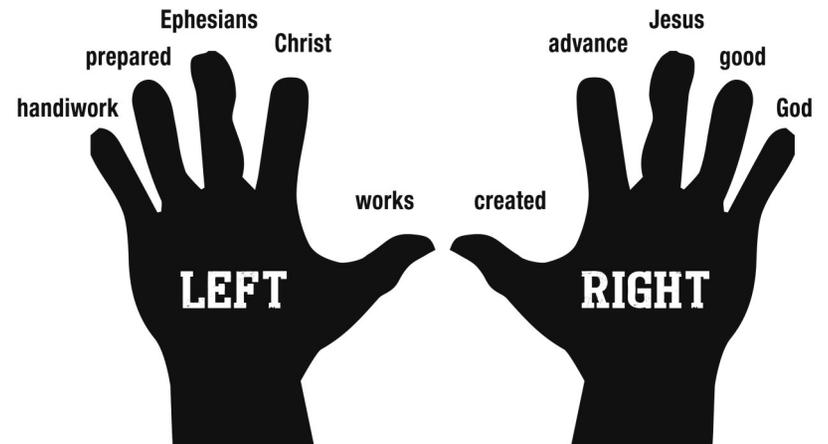
Note: The church will gladly accept your  
contributions through the mail.  
(330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042)  
Our budget may be affected by this  
pandemic, and your offerings will  
help. Please try to continue  
your stewardship throughout the  
coming weeks while we all try  
to stay home and stay healthy.



## Handiwork to do good works

God has a special plan and purpose for each of us.

*Directions: Use the finger-position clues under the blanks below  
to complete Ephesians 2:10, NIV.*



For we are God's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in  
L pinky R thumb  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to do \_\_\_\_\_,  
L pointer R middle R ring L thumb  
 which \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
R pinky L ring R pointer  
 for us to do. \_\_\_\_\_ 2:10, NIV  
L middle

Answer: handiwork, created, Jesus, good, works, God, prepared, advance, Ephesians

# SAVE DATES

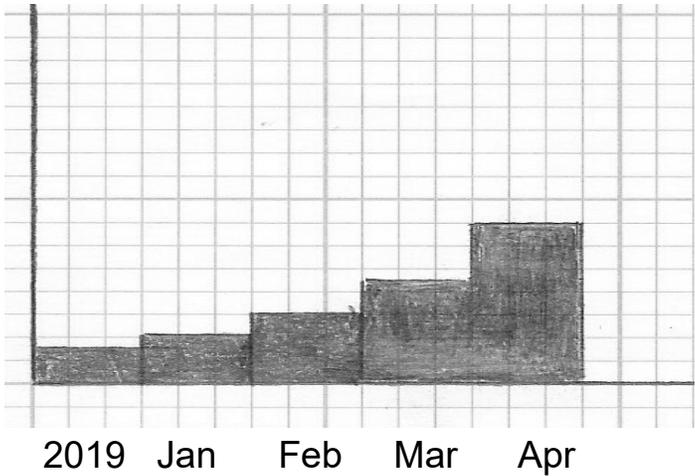
Contact information and e-mail addresses can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

June			
6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24	5:30 pm	Zoom Bible Study	Please sign-up with the Pastor.
6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28	9:00 am – 12:00pm	Holy Communion by appointment in the Chapel	Please call the office .
6/8	7:00 pm	Zoom Council Meeting	
6/14	11:30 am	Church Zoom with Friends	Please call the office or E-mail the church.
	12:00 pm	Sunday School Zoom – Scavenger Hunt	Please call the office or E-mail the church.
	12:00 pm	Zoom Membership Meeting	
6/15	6:00 pm	Parking Lot Social	
6/19		VBS Volunteer Deadline	Please sign-up with Vicar Matt.
July			
7/6		VBS Sign-up Deadline	Please call the office or E-mail the church.
August			
8/3-8/7		VBS	

## ORGAN RENOVATION and CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



\$18,000

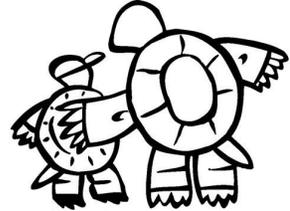


The Capital Campaign, at the end of April 2020 has reached \$20,971. Despite the stay at home order, April was the best month in support of the Capital Campaign in the year 2020. Thank you for your faithful support.

Together we will meet our goal.

Emery Brothers, like other business have been under the stay at home order since the end of March. They have reported to me they have 2 or 3 days left in shop work, and the week after they are cleared to go back to work, the reinstallation of the organ is scheduled to begin.

Steve Moyer, Treasurer



### Father's Day Prayer

May the blessing of our loving God shine upon all fathers, father like figures, pet fathers, fathers that have passed. . . May God grant them much peace, joy and love not only on this special day for fathers but also every day. Amen

The church office is operating on a condensed schedule. Please call before hand to make sure someone is there to help you. 610-258-6119



You can also always leave a message on the church voicemail, or e-mail (Admin@stjohnseaston.org.), messages will be checked and responded to daily.

### *In the gallery...*

The Gallery at St. John's will remain closed for the foreseeable future. There is a long timeline involved in planning exhibits. Recruiting artists, setting dates, publication of postcards and other material begins months, sometimes a year or more, in advance of an opening.

The Fine Arts Committee is grateful to the artists who were willing to leave their work in the gallery when it was closed due to the pandemic. Hopefully this show will resume when the gallery is once again open.

Art, expressed through music, paintings, sculpture, writings, etc., has always held a prominent place in religion. The gallery's aim is to fulfill its mission of encouraging art appreciation by sponsoring musical events, book reviews, poetry readings, art demonstrations and other programs in addition to exhibits of fine art.

Here are a few Old Testament Bible verses about art.

### *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Genesis 1:1 We might think of God as the original or ultimate artist!

*The Lord said to Moses, "See, I have called by name Bezalel... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft."*  
Exodus 35: 1-5

*Now King Solomon invited and received Hiram from Tyre...he was full of skill, intelligence, and knowledge in working bronze. He came to King Solomon, and did all his work.* I Kings 7:13-14

*David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their kindred as the singers to play on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise loud sounds of joy.* 1 Chronicles 15:16

*"O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever!"* Job 19:23-24

*He has made everything beautiful in its time.* Ecclesiastes 3:11.

*So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.* Jeremiah 18:3

## Outreach Committee June Benevolence

### Local agencies that need support . . .

During this time of Social Distancing,

Monetary Donations are the best way to give . . .

Any donations can be mailed directly to the Agencies.

#### \* Third Street Alliance for Women & Children

41 N. Third St., Easton, 18042

#### \* Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

444 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown 18103

#### \* Safe Harbor, Easton

536 Bushkill Dr, Easton , 18042

#### \* The Center for Animal Health & Welfare

1165 Island Park Road, Easton 18042



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

## Try Something FUN!

Sunday school is starting monthly meetings using our computers. Some youth have already participated in Pastor Sue's scavenger hunt that was introduced during the children's chat in May. Another Scavenger hunt will take place on June 14 at noon. What do you have to do? Go to the webpage (<https://www.stjohnseaston.org>) and find what we are looking for in June. You get a prize mailed to you for participating and a McDonald's gift certificate for the winner! (Youth ages 3-18 are eligible for prizes!) The scavenger hunt will end in a zoom meeting where you can show your results!



## Blessing Box

<sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
Matthew 25:35

*For those in need of food, please feel free to take.*

*If you have food to spare, please share . . .*

We would like to thank Steve & Carolyn Moyer for the donation and construction of the new "Blessing Box" that is now present in the rear of the church on the fence by the parking lot. We now have the ability to help those in need in a new way. Please remember to take a look at Steve's handiwork and if able make a food donation (non- perishable.)



## Vicar Matt is getting married!

Many wedding plans got changed due to the pandemic including Vicar Matthew's to his fiancé

Abby. To celebrate their upcoming wedding on July 11th, you are invited to 'shower' them with cards of congratulations of their upcoming nuptials.

During June, send cards to Vicar Matthew at the church. Pastor hopes he gets 50! If you feel moved, a small monetary gift is OK but NOT expected!

Thank you!

## Property Update:

Tyler & Michelle have been hard at work . . . Remember to look around . . . Touch-ups and Spruce-ups all around the inside & outside the church! Lets thank them, YAY!



## Staff Directory:

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

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-think about sending a 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)

### 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/).

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