

The Eagle



March 2021

New Series Volume MMXXI — No. 3, 2021

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

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Newsletter@stjohnseaston.org



March, 2021

We begin March having come through eleven days of Lent already. Remember, Lent is 40 days long not including Sundays. (Sunday has always been a 'little Easter'). So, we have had a little more than a week of Lent already. 40 days might seem like a long time if you 'gave up' something. Or it might not seem long enough if there are things you are trying to accomplish. Either way, in the Bible, the number 40 often denotes a period of testing or trial.

To name a few examples: In Genesis 7:12 God caused the rain to fall for 40 days/nights. Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days to talk to the Lord (Exodus 24:18). For 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days (Mark 1:13).

In 2016, Reader's Digest had an article that mentioned other insights into the number 40 that may be interesting. Forty is the only number in English whose letters are in alphabetical order. 40 degrees is the same in Fahrenheit and Celsius. So why have 40 days of Lent?

As Easter is celebrated, the early church designated a preparation time for the festival. 40 days before Easter included self-examination and preparation for baptism for new converts. Over time fasting as a sign of penance and other ways of observing Lent were encouraged. 40 reflects the days Jesus was fasting in the desert according to the Gospel writers and Christians could do no less than follow Christ's example.

Today, we often focus on growing our knowledge and relationship with God through prayer, study, and self-examination of our lives. Many find it meaningful to be of service or do special acts that - "give away" during Lent. Some examples are : "giving" one good deed per day away to someone or something, "giving" words of hope and kindness, "giving" joy. These are often a reflective method of marking the 40 days of Lent.

There is still time to mark your Lent and to share in devotions with the days that are left.

Lenten Opportunities:

- Lenten Dialogue - Wednesday evenings during Lent, 6:00 pm in the chapel or by "ZOOM". Bring your own light dinner as we share our lesson.
- The Northeast Pennsylvania Synod website offers daily devotions.
- Share with us (send an email or card to the office) your favorite place for devotions / prayer during Lent!
- Share with each other how you are growing in faith this Lent.

Like you, I look forward to *Palm Sunday* on March 28th as we distribute palms in our sanctuary. (The same, but different, with social distancing and wearing masks.)

We attempt to return to what we've always known by gathering again on *Maundy Thursday*, (April 1) and *Good Friday*, (April 2) as we mark the last week of Lent and anticipate the glorious day of *Easter!* (April 4)

In God's peace,
Pastor Sue

SPRING

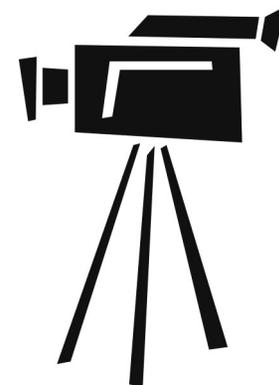


FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time Begins!

Remember to move your clocks ahead 1 hour when you go to bed on March 13th so you are not late to church on the 14th!!

Ever wonder how we film, produce, edit, the church worship services that are posted online?



Please join us Sunday March 7th, at 3:00 pm in the Chapel for a informational session as Tyler Van Allen goes through all the steps that go into the cinematic process.

Hope to see everyone who has an interest there!

Church Work Day

Please join us:

March 21st

- following worship



(Work includes general cleaning & misc. tasks . . .)



Easter Flowers

Dedications /

We invite the congregation to participate in decorating the church for **Easter**. If you would like to give a beautiful spring flower in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone dear, please fill out the information below.

Your names and those being dedicated too will be printed in the bulletin on **Easter Morning, Sunday April 4, 2021**

Deadline: March 21, 2021

\$8.00 per Plant

Your Name:

Phone Number:

In Memory of :

In Honor of:

Other Dedications:

Amount Paid:

Deadline for Ordering: March 21, 2021

March— 10:30 am Worship

March 7

Liturgical Color:

Reading:

Reader:

Worship Assistant:

Comm. Assistant / Usher:

Third Sunday of Lent

Purple

John 2:13-22

Mike Thompson

Roger Ruggles

Michelle Fritzo / Wayne Docker

March 14

Liturgical Color:

Reading:

Reader:

Worship Assistant:

Comm. Assistant / Usher:

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Purple

John 3:14-21

Bob Black

Chris Orem

Michelle Fritzo / Sue Glenn

March 21

Liturgical Color:

Reading:

Reader:

Worship Assistant:

Comm. Assistant / Usher:

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Purple

John 12:20-33

Aaron Howey

Jim Heck

Michelle Fritzo / Bob Black

March 28

Liturgical Color:

Reading:

Reader:

Worship Assistant:

Comm. Assistant / Usher:

Passion / Palm Sunday

Purple

Mark 14:1-15:47

Cindy Black

Joyce Petty

Barb Horinko / Jacob Ruggles



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
Psalm 118:26, ESV

On Sunday, March 28, Christians throughout the world will observe Palm Sunday. This day inaugurates the most important week of the Christian year, beginning with Jesus' glorious entry into Jerusalem and ending with his crucifixion and death. Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, remembers Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, as crowds gathered around him, waving palms and shouting "Hosanna!"

March

St. Johns, would like everyone to share in the Palm Sunday celebration, the start of Holy Week, and the end of Lent by receiving Palms.



- * Palms will be distributed on 3/28/21, at the 10:30 worship service.
- * You can also “drive-up” for Palms, Sunday 3/28/21 after worship between 11:00 am—1:00 pm.
- * If you are not able to take advantage of these options, the Membership Committee has volunteered to try to deliver Palms to you. (If you would like to receive a Palm, please call Linda Kalapay (610-252-1735))
- * Palms can also be picked up at the church during office hours. (M-F, 9-12 pm)



 **Maundy Thursday** - **Worship—7:00 pm, April 1, 2021**

 **Good Friday** - **Worship—7:00pm , April 2, 2021**

 **Easter Sunday** - **Worship—10:30am , April 4, 2021**

**(Worship will be held in person or via “Zoom”,
Details will be posted in the bulletin and on the website.)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
Church Worship: 10:30 am Sundays	1	2	3 Council Meeting Due Lenten Service @ 6:00 pm
7	8 Finance Mtg. 12:00 pm	9 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	10 Lenten Service @ 6:00 pm
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins Membership Mtg. 12:00 pm	15	16	17 Lenten Service @ 6:00 pm
21 Property Mtg. & Outreach Mtg. 12:00 pm	22	23	24 Lenten Service @ 6:00 pm
28 Passion / Palm Sunday —10:30 am 	29	30	31

Note: Tuesday Bible Study on Mark will be postponed until April.

2021

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Reports <hr/> in Dialog Series 10:00 pm	4 Bible Study 5:30 pm The Epistles	5	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> NA Meetings: Thursday @ 7:00 pm (Fellowship Hall) </div>
in Dialog Series 10:00 pm	11 Prayer Group 9:30 am <hr/> Bible Study 5:30 pm The Epistles	12 Newsletter Deadline	13
in Dialog Series 10:00 pm	18 Bible Study 5:30 pm The Epistles	19	20
in Dialog Series 10:00 pm	25 Prayer Group 9:30 am <hr/> Bible Study 5:30 pm The Epistles	26	27
	April—1 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> - 7:00 pm <i>Worship</i>	April—2 <i>Good Friday</i> - 7:00 pm <i>Worship</i>	April—3 <i>Youth Egg Hunt—TBD</i> 10:00 am



ST. JOHN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY HELPS IMMIGRANTS

By Nadine Anderson
(On behalf of the Outreach Committee)

St. John's has a long history of supporting immigrants and refugees. The Benevolent Society of our church was chartered in 1833 to "*care for the welfare of poor and indigent immigrants.*"

In 1846 Mr. Peter Miller, an Easton merchant and member of St. John's gave \$5,000 to the Benevolent Society, which extended their ability to help immigrants in need.

Today, we work with the Lafayette College Refugee Action Committee to help immigrants and refugees in need in our community. In the past we had an immigrant family that Lafayette was sponsoring live in the church apartment until they could find permanent housing. We also continue to be supportive of Lafayette's work with immigrants by collecting items in need for families they are sponsoring, (*baby items, house hold goods, etc . . .*)

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is another group that works with asylum seekers, immigrants, and refugees. They have spent 80 years, helping people settle into a new life in a new country. Their work can be viewed online at <https://www.lirs.org/>.

In March, a month of "luck and good fortune" we invite you to make a donation supporting immigrants. You can make a donation to St. John's and indicate whether you want it to go to Lafayette College's Refugee Action Committee, to LIRS, or both. Let us show those around us they are lucky too!



Youth

Upcoming Events:

March 6, 2020 - Youth Bowling—
TBD—10:30 am,
(meet at the church at 10:00 am)



April 3, 2020 - Easter Egg Hunt
(details to come . . .)

Thank you God for all that grows,
Thank you for the sky's rainbows,
Thank you for the stars that shine,
Thank you for these friends of mine,
Thank you for the moon and sun,
Thank you God for all you've done!

-Author unknown

Altar flower dedications / memorial requests are currently being accepted for the following dates:

March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28th

***Altar
Flowers***



April, May, June . . .

Please consider one of the weeks above as an act of remembrance or celebration for someone you love!

Outreach Committee *March* Benevolence

Please think about supporting one of our ongoing Outreach Programs:

Back-Pack Pals
Family Connection
Project Food Pantry
Meals on Wheels
Safe Harbor

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



 **Office Hours**

Pastor Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, beginning at 4:00 pm
If you desire, please call the church office to set up an appointment with the Pastor.

(She is happy to meet at other times too!)



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

Office Hours: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

CONTACT
information
Staff
Directory

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

Don Johnson our **Driver** can be reached through the church office @ 610-258-6119, or if you need a ride to church, please call 610-360-5268

(Phone and Email messages are checked daily.)



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/

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

Think about sending the link to a friend!

WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG

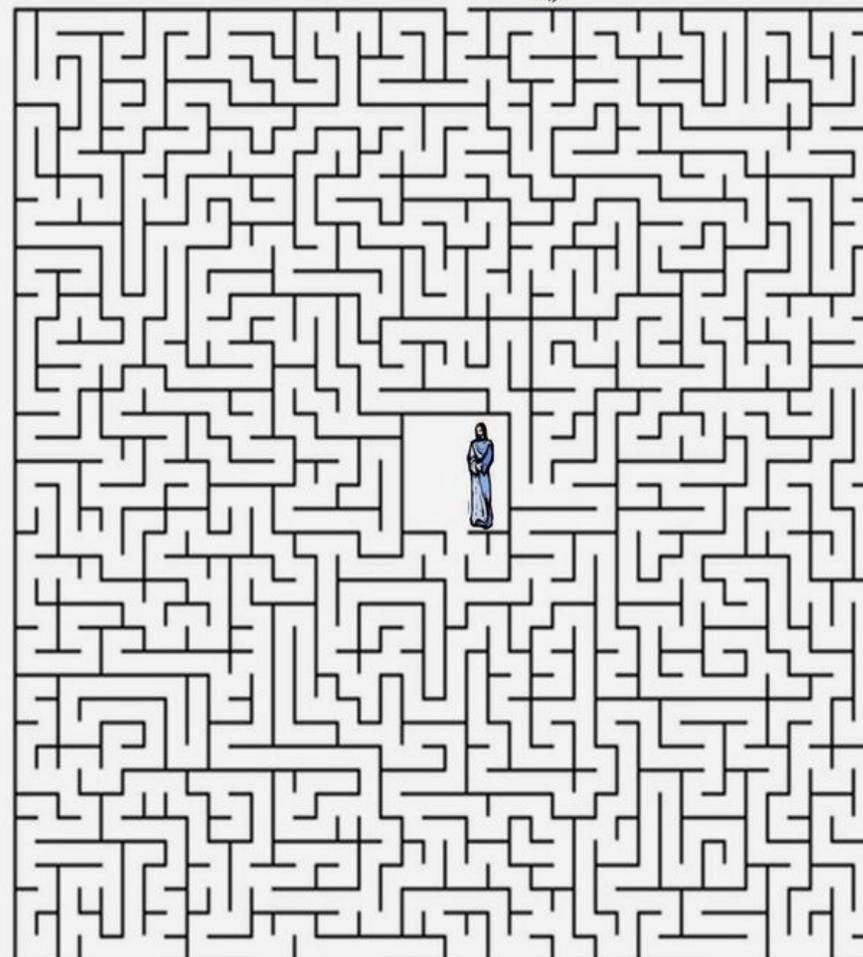
**If you would like to discontinue your paper copy delivery,
please contact the church office. (610-258-6119)**



Palm Sunday Maze

Help the Donkey
get to Jesus!

Start →



Wednesday Night - Lenten Dialog Series

"Places of the Passion"

Beginning February 24th @ 6:00 pm

(Held in person or via "Zoom",
Details will be posted in the bulletin and on the website.)

(In lieu of "Soup & Scripture, you are encouraged to bring a
simple supper to eat, or eat during your "Zoom")





March
Birthdays & Anniversaries

3/5—Shawn Fink

3/6—Ian Heck

3/7—Amelia Fink

3/10—Daniel Cressman

3/13—Jeffery Skinner

3/17—Stefanie Weber

3/18—Jeanette Wilkins

3/30—Kevin Sirotnak

3/22—Mike Thompson

3/27—Mia Ruggles

3/28—Steve Moyer

~

3/3—John & Sharon Fritchman

3/28—Julia & Charles Cortright

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



Please join us at
10:30 am for worship
with Holy Communion
in the Sanctuary.

We practice social
distancing and wear
face masks.

We ask that you
please remember to
wash your hands
frequently, and use
hand sanitizer when
entering and
exiting the church.

We hope to see you
there.

Deaths in the



**CHURCH
FAMILY**

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

*Fay Stimmel
8/25/1947—1/21/2021
(memorial 4/24/21—1:00 pm)

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