

# The Eagle



May 2020

New Series Volume MMXX No 5, 2020

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a reconciling in Christ congregation*

330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

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From the Pastor . . .



I read something that made an argument for contradicting the saying, "we are all in the same boat". It went on to say that your boat could be shipwrecked and mine keeps sailing. The boats might be different sizes, one a yacht with amenities and the other a rowboat with a leak. One boat might be dealing with death on board and the other with people and the picture of health. The dialogue went on to say 'we are in the same storm' is more like it. The reaction to the storm is what makes the difference.

I think about that as this storm called Coronavirus lingers over our area and most of the world. How we react to what happens is important. This is a time for patience. This is a time for understanding. This is a time for forgiving. As a pastor, I reflect that Jesus had something to teach about that! Read the words Paul wrote to the Ephesians: *Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.* Within a storm, things can change quickly and we must keep our wits about us, keep in front of us who we are and who we belong as children of God.

I told the Vicar that when the first 'stay at home' was ordered by our governor for PA on April 1, that within weeks the need for patience, understanding and forgiveness would increase. The storm may be moving out but patience is still needed. The decisions for when the church opens again and what that looks like will not be what everyone wants. Our boats may be different but the storm is affecting everyone in some way or another so understanding another point of view is prudent. We live in a broken world so everything will not always run the way we want. Empty shelves, bothersome lines, rules will continue to confuse us but understanding is important. Our deep sense of individual brings behavior that not all agree on (to go to the store or not; to visit family or not; to go to church or not) and things are said or insinuated that are hurtful. Forgiveness is key to be a community, a community of believers.

Looking behind us and knowing the date of Easter came may have left a longing for the celebration we know in our memories. Going forward please steer in this storm the best way you can. The Vicar and I are here if you need something to help you in your faith journey. We welcome your phone calls, your letters or your emails. Share what is getting you through the storm! Share your latest 'bright idea' for the future! Share the gospel of Jesus Christ by showing your patience, understanding and forgiveness!

In peace, Pastor Sue



## Covid-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,  
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,  
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,  
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions  
between food on the table or public safety,  
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,  
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,  
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,  
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,  
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope,  
comfort and love to all.

Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord.  
Amen.

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## BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries

### May Birthdays . . .

5/3—James Fogel  
5/4—Charles Orem  
5/5—Sue Glenn  
5/16—Larry Transue  
5/17—Bob Seiple  
5/18—Pete Lake  
5/18—Scarlett Weber  
5/19—Louise Nuttall  
5/20—Bucky Keyser  
5/20—Ruth Thomas  
5/23—Robert Aerni  
5/29—Ann Compton  
5/29—Richard Ruland

### May Anniversaries . . .

5/2—Barbara & Charles Hanson  
5/4—Ruth & Brad Thomas  
5/22—Tika & Daniel Cressman

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



### *In Remembrance*

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

*Remembering those  
members who have  
passed . . .*

◇ Betty Keiber  
2/3/1920 - 3/23/2020

◇ Shirley Morrone  
7/18/1925 - 4/17/2020

**THE LORD  
BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;**

**THE LORD  
MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE  
UPON YOU  
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;**

**THE LORD  
LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE  
UPON YOU  
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.**

**NUMBERS 6:24-26, ESV**

*Scripture Readings—May 2020*



*Mother's Day Prayer*

*Loving God,*

*You wrap your arms around your people and show your everlasting love in the same way a mother loves her children. We are grateful for the love you have taught us through the mothers in our lives: our own mother who brought us into this world, the mothers of friend who have welcomed us into their homes and families, our grandmothers who took time for us, and the mothers who have helped us even though we were not their children. Bless all the mothers of this world today. May they know the fullness of love they have shared and be blessed every day of their lives. Amen*



*May 3 - Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Reading: John 10:1-10

*May 10 - Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Reading: John 14:1-14

*May 17 - Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Reading: John 18:1--19:42

*May 24 - Ascension of Our Lord*

Reading: Luke 24:44-53



**He was taken up to heaven.**  
ACTS 1:2

Christ ascends into heaven, his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11) ; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

*May 31 -Pentecost*

Reading: John 20:19-23

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

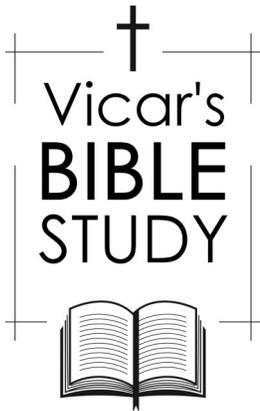


If we live by the **SPiRiT**, let us also keep in step with the **SPiRiT**.  
GALATIANS 5:25, ESV

# worship WITH US

• Information about the Church, Worship, Prayer Lists, and Devotions can be found on our website at [www.stjohnseaston.org](http://www.stjohnseaston.org). Please keep checking for the latest updates

- Please keep checking your e-mails! 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.



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Please find information on Vicar Matt's bible study on the website . . .  
(you can call to have it mailed)  
[www.stjohnseaston.org](http://www.stjohnseaston.org)

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**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.



Have you ever run outside in the rain and jumped in the puddles? I used to love to splash around in the water puddles growing up. Recently it seems like it has rained at some point during most days of the week here at St. John's not a lot but enough to make a few puddles in the parking lot. Sometimes the rain is not seen as a good sign. I am reminded of the old expression "I hate to rain on your parade but..." when someone says that they will not be sharing good news.

When actions outside of our control come unexpectedly and dampen our moment like rain, it can be aggravating. We might be tempted to say; "why me God I thought that I was doing everything right" It may be easy to fall into this temptation, but sometimes things in life just happen like the rain. They are not the result of some kind of punishment.

Consider the words of Matthew 5:44-45 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

Rain comes and sometimes changes the things that we plan. It can cancel gatherings with family, sporting events and other fun times. When little things 'rain on our parade' Leviticus 26:4 tells us that we need the rain, "I will give you your rains in their season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."

Rain is also a good thing without the spring rains flowers do not come into bloom. Often unexpected things may catch us by surprise like a spring shower, and perhaps the best thing we can do is to splash in a puddle and pray.

Yours in the rain . . . Peace, Vicar Matt

## Bible Matching

### **“April Showers Bring May Flowers!”**

Below are messages about rain and flowers found in the bible and their correlating scripture passages . . .

### **Can you match them?**

1. “He gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields;”
2. “For to the snow he says, ‘Fall on the earth’; and the shower of rain, hi-heavy shower of rain, serves as a sign on everyone’s hand, so that all whom he has made may know it.”
3. “Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”
- 4 “I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my love”
5. “Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.”

*Answers found later in the newsletter*

#### **A. Song of**

**Solomon 2:1**

#### **B. Job 37:6**

#### **C. James 5:18**

#### **D. Job 5:10**

#### **E. Luke 12:27**



## **Geranium - DEDICATION**

Red Geraniums - This color reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit that descended upon the disciples at Pentecost.



We invite the congregation to participate in decorating the church for Pentecost. If you would like to give a beautiful plant in memory of loved ones or honor family or friends, please fill in the information below. Your names and all those being honored or memorialized will be printed in the bulletin on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

Afterwards, the Church grounds will show off these beautiful plants for all to enjoy through the summer.

**(Please note-even if we don’t meet in the church, we will be supporting a business and planting them on the property!)**

Each plant costs \$8.00.  
Please Print Clearly

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

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / Honor / Other: (1 dedication per plant)

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please at mail to the church office.  
DEADLINE FOR ORDERING – Monday, May 18, 2020.**

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

**Note from the gallery...**

Life changed unexpectedly for all of us in March. The *Artists Without Walls* and ACE's *Small Works Show* had to be closed just two weeks after opening due to the coronavirus pandemic. The exhibit of artwork by incarcerated women, planned for May and June, had to be canceled, and facing an uncertain future it was impossible to plan a summer show. At this time we do not know when the crisis will end.

We are so very grateful to all of the AWW and SWS artists who were willing to leave their art in the gallery. When the church is once again open, hopefully this show will resume. Instead of blank white walls, there will be a "ready-made show" which would not otherwise have been possible.

During this sacred season may we all find peace and hope in the message of Easter and the assurance that God is always with us.

On Memorial Day, usually the last Monday in May in the United States of America, we remember those who died in active service of our country. We honor them with thankfulness for their service and prayer for our military families, our troops, and our nation. The day has been set aside by presidential proclamation since 1969 as a day of prayer for peace.



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](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)), messages will be checked and responded to daily.

**Outreach Committee**  
*May Benevolence*

**Local agencies that need support . . .**

Any donations should be dropped off or mailed directly to the Agencies.

*Third Street Alliance for Women & Children*

41 N. Third St., Easton

**What they need:**

Donations of frozen foods, meat, dish detergent and floor cleaner.

**Donations can be dropped off** at the center.

Go into the vestibule and ring a bell to alert office staff and the articles can be left in the vestibule or on the porch if the front door is locked.

The items can also be sent through Amazon (people can select Third Street Alliance through Amazon Smile and they will also receive a small portion of their purchase price).

**Info:** [krose@thirdstreetalliance.org](mailto:krose@thirdstreetalliance.org); 610-438-9423

*Turning Point of Lehigh Valley*

444 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown

**What they need:** Gift cards for grocery stores and pharmacies and monetary donations.

Safe Harbor, Easton

536 Bushkill Dr, Easton

What they need:

Sugar --- Creamer --- Bottled water --- Bread --- Milk

Shampoo & Conditioner --- Plastic grocery bags

Knitting needles and yarn --- New basketballs

--- Playing cards

Puzzles --- Sidewalk chalk --- Snacks

As always,  
Outreach Thanks you for your support



Jesus loves all of us including children!

I know my grandchildren have asked some really good questions about this virus and what is happening in their world. I'm told the children miss Sunday school! I continue to encourage families to check out the Christian videos on-line and even read some books with a Christian story. If you have trouble finding them online, please contact the church office and Vicar and I will deliver some Christian story books from the church library.

There is a lot of anxiety about the virus for children and many professionals have already written articles to help parents. The World Health Organization has put a book online for children to help them with the questions and in a simple way gives them power over their lives. The thoughts of the book can speak to all of us!

It is a free download: [www.who.int/news-room](http://www.who.int/news-room).

--Pastor Sue



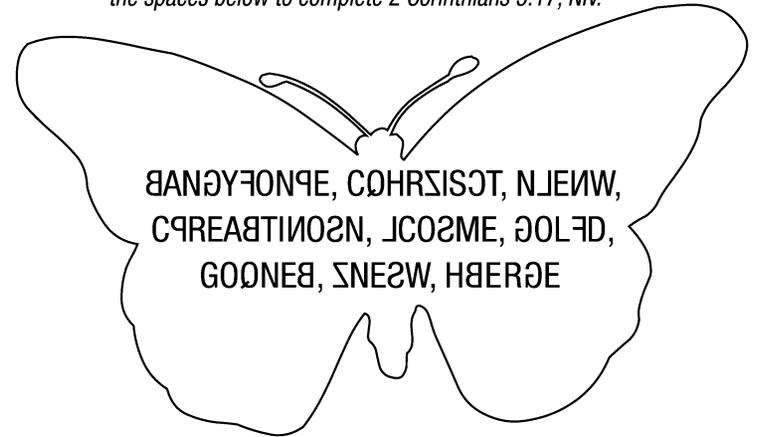
# Transformation **POWER**



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,  
God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

Answers to Vicar's puzzle 1:D 2:B 3:E 4:A 5:C

## Staff Directory:

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment

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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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