

# The Eagle



September 2020

*New Series Volume MMXX No 9, 2020*

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a reconciling in Christ congregation*

330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles, Pastor  
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September, 2020

We all have prejudices that developed growing up (many that are unknown to us).

Throughout the history of the

United States, power has been in the hands of white people and decisions about laws were made by the same group. (Example Jim Crow laws, segregation, red-lining in neighborhoods). The church has tried to separate itself from some of these covert prejudices but unfortunately sin exists.

Some people today think prejudices and racism don't exist (anymore) or is 'not their problem' or not 'their fault'. People will say, 'the laws were passed during great-grandfather's time', 'I have friends who are black or brown', 'I am not part of the radical racist who burns crosses'. The truth is prejudices are alive and well, racism is still real and there is a privilege if you have white skin. This is a hard pill to swallow especially if you are white.

Members and friends of St. John's, you have good hearts. You love Jesus Christ who teaches us to love all people regardless of race, economics, or gender. The issues of racial justice are issues we should be familiar with and concerned about as members of the body of Christ. We follow Jesus and we are commanded to love one another. I feel I have failed you as a disciple of Christ for not addressing these topics of racial justice in depth and teaching what the word of God says about sin and indifference. That ends now.

I begin this process of change with an invitation to join me in future dialogues and learnings centered on God's promise for all people through baptism. By beginning with our common ground of baptism, we can learn how another suffers because of the color of skin. We can learn how racial justice can be celebrated. I move forward provoking each of us to search within ourselves and ask how we have failed to celebrate God's wish for all people.

Finally, I wish for all of us (white privileged and victims of racism) to tear down fences that keep us separated and for us to act in our baptismal call as children of God.

Please do not be fearful that someone will call you racist. Please do not be angry if the world doesn't change fast enough. Please know you are affirmed that God loves you, baptized child of God, and that your place is at the table with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please join us, Sunday, September 27 at 2:00pm, for the first dialogue, called '*Entering the Waters*'. We will meet in person at the church or you can "ZOOM" into the meeting. We will work through a series of conversations to step out in faith with renewed dedication to seek racial justice. Email the church office to receive more information and to receive the church zoom information.

In Peace, Pastor Sue Ruggles



### September Anniversaries . . .

- 9/5—Cheri & John Gilbert
- 9/8—Karen Ruggles & Matthew Hammerstone

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

### September Birthdays . . .

- 9/2—Carol Faulkner
- 9/6—Sean Hartman
- 9/9—Cliff Rose
- 9/10—Karla Lake
- 9/10—Verna Miller
- 9/11—Brad Thomas
- 9/12—Edwin Kehler
- 9/14—Victor Unks
- 9/16—Arlene Transue
- 9/17—Richard Heimbach
- 9/22—Christine Skinner
- 9/23—Pat Thompson
- 9/24—Edward Kovac
- 9/26—John Gilbert
- 9/28—Joan Fulmer
- 9/30—Sharon Fritchman

### Thanksgiving Basket Update:

Due to the Coronavirus, we will not be filling and giving out Thanksgiving Baskets this year.

In order to help families who are in need, within our congregation and community, to have a nice Thanksgiving meal the Outreach committee decided to give out \$25 gift cards from local grocery stores. These cards will help purchase some food items for their holiday dinner.

If you would like to support this project, you may do so with a monetary donation, which will be used to purchase gift cards.

We are limiting the amount of request we receive to 40 families.

We thank you for your support. **The Outreach Committee**





Fall Worship Times

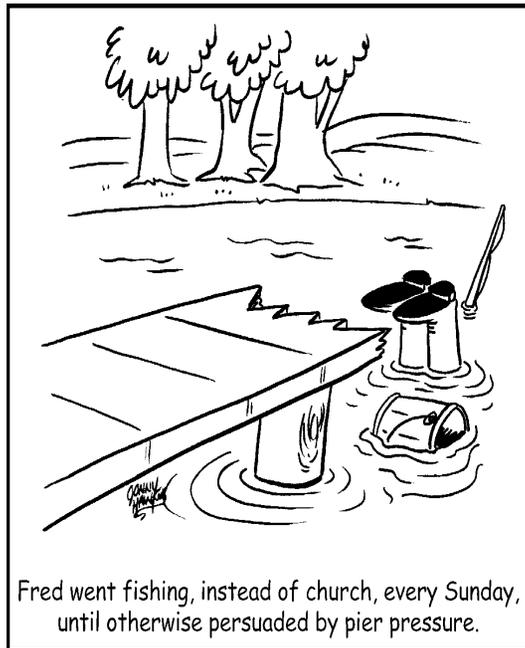
Regular worship times will return on September 6th.

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

We are still practicing social distancing and wearing 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.



Fred went fishing, instead of church, every Sunday, until otherwise persuaded by pier pressure.



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...

Ann L. Compton

5/29/40 — 8/5/20

September — 10:30 am

September 6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Matthew 18:15-20  
Attendant / Ushers: Bob Black  
Reader: Joyce Petty

September 13 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Matthew 18:21-35  
Attendant / Ushers: Jacob Ruggles  
Reader: Ian Heck

September 20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Matthew 20:1-16  
Attendant / Ushers: Roger Ruggles  
Reader: Wayne Docker

September 27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Matthew 21:23-32  
Attendant / Ushers: Loretta Heck  
Reader: Monica Weiss-Nolen

Not able to join us on Sundays?

Please find a recorded version of our Worship Service on our website at:

WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG

Worship with us from HOME



\*Services are available for viewing by Tuesday following Sunday Worship.



**PLEASE JOIN US . . .**

**September 20th**

**FOR OUR**

**“Fall Church Work Day”  
COME READY TO PAINT!!**

**(Meet you after the Service in the Narthex.)**



**Rides Available**

The van is running again for worship transportation. (Adults only at this time.)

\*Please call the church office for a ride by Friday @ 10:00 am for a ride on Sunday.

## *Bible Studies*

Please join us:

**- Tuesday mornings @ 11:00 am**

Old Testament starting with a re-cap of the Book of Isaiah. (beginning Sept. 15th.)

**- Thursday evenings @ 7:00 pm**

A NEW bible study on the New Testament. (beginning Sept. 17th.)

Please come see what you are missing and learn something new!

*Both Bible Studies are available in person and via ZOOM, please contact the church office for details!*

# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
		1	2
6 Fall Worship Times Start 10:30 am  Finance (Office) 12:00 pm	7  Office Closed	8	9  Cou Rep D
13	14  Council Mtg. (Gallery) 7:00 pm	15  Tuesday Bible Study - Old Test. Join us in the Gallery 11:00 am	16
20  Church Workday 12:00 pm  Outreach (Gallery) 12:00 pm	21	22  Tuesday Bible Study - Old Test. Join us in the Gallery - 11:00 am	23
27  “Entering the Waters” - dialogue, Join us in the Gallery - 2:00 pm	28	29  Tuesday Bible Study - Old Test. Join us in the Gallery - 11:00 am	30

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ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5
ncil orts ue	10 Prayer Group Join us in the Gallery - 9:30 am	11 Newsletter Deadline	12
	17 New Testament Bible Study Join us in the Gallery 7:00 pm	18	19
	24 Prayer Group Join us in the Gallery - 9:30 am <hr/> New Testament Bible Study Join us in the Gallery 7:00 pm	25	26

## NOTES FROM THE TREASURER BUDGET INCOME and EXPENSES

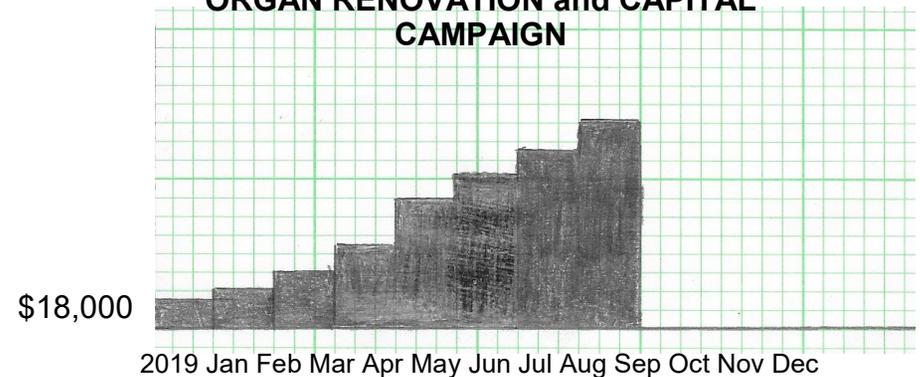
Much has changed over the Summer due to the pandemic. But one thing has not, your financial commitment to mission and ministry at St. John's.

During the month of July our income was \$75.00 short of the budget for the month. Thank you. Even though year to date we are behind our budget about \$8,000., our expenses have been lower also.

Please know all Staff salaries and benefits have been paid in full to date; all Benevolences have been continued to date; and all bills have been paid.

**A note to help our Counting Teams:** Because of the pandemic many are contributing through mail and making contributions for a number of weeks at a time, (no problem and thank you) . . . but some are writing a check for each envelope. This is not needed. One check for the total of your contribution works fine. Be sure to mark the weeks and / or accounts the contribution is for. It will be easier for you and makes the counting easier for the Counters. Again thank you for your continued support!

### ORGAN RENOVATION and CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



The Capital Campaign for the Organ Renovations at the end of July 2020 has reached \$23,101. We continue at a steady pace to reach our goal. Thank you for your continued faithful support as we move closer to our Campaign Goal of \$50,000. At the time of this writing, Emery Brothers continues the reinstallation of the organ.  
Steve Moyer, Treasurer

Not comfortable coming back to church?  
That's OK . . .

Mail your contributions to the Church:  
330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042



**Thanks** to all of the volunteers, parents, and youth who helped make VBS *tracktastic*. During VBS we dealt with hard things, found hope, were bold, became good friends and learned how Jesus' power helps us live forever. We experienced a different way of sharing our faith and learned to look for God around us; that Jesus' power does indeed help us to pull through.

Thank you for what you have done in ministry with St. John's in making such an opportunity possible.

For those interested in viewing the videos and content please contact the church office for instructions on how to check out the VBS passenger page on our website.



The church is still offering Holy Communion by appointment for those who don't feel comfortable coming to Worship.

Please call the Church office to set up a time on Sundays after worship to have Communion.

## Outreach Committee September Benevolence



Turning Point  
of Lehigh Valley

Domestic violence is not "a personal matter" or "family business." Like any crime of power and control, it can only exist in an environment of secrecy or tolerance and is often difficult to break away from. Victims may be told that the abuse is their fault. When someone you love controls, manipulates, and violates you, it requires a huge leap of faith to place your trust in others.

Since 1978 Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, a non-profit, has helped thousands of women, men, and children - all income groups, urban, rural, LGBTQ, and different ethnicities and religions - seeking safety and a way to live free of violence. Turning Point operates emergency shelters and safe houses in Lehigh and Northampton Counties, accommodating single women and women with children who are fleeing domestic violence. Shelter locations are confidential, have security systems and are staffed 24/7.

Additional services are also offered and include children's services, counseling; legal and medical advocacy; goal and safety planning; and crisis counseling through a 24-hour hotline staffed by trained advocates. All services are confidential and at no cost to the person or family.

To access shelter services an individual must first call the helpline at 877-438-4957.

Contributed by Carol Faulkner on behalf of the Outreach Committee.

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

## St. John's - *Supporting PRIDE*

This year **PRIDE Festival** looked a little different because of the pandemic, like a lot of other organizations, they decided to go online.

Lehigh Valley PRIDE and Reading PRIDE went virtual given the low number of people who were able to attend together due to capacity restrictions.

Reading PRIDE was live online on July 19 and Allentown PRIDE was live online August 16, which included a Kids Space, a Teen Space, and a Pre-PRIDE worship service.

St. John's has had a long history of supporting and participating in Lehigh Valley PRIDE events since becoming RIC in 2002.

In past years St. John's has joined together at the pride festival with the NEPA Synod's LGBTQ+ Ministry Task Force with 2 tents. Last year there were four tents of Lutheran Churches in a row all supporting PRIDE. We had the 2 tents for ourselves and the Task Force, and were beside St. John's Allentown and St. John's Whitehall.

Since the festival was virtual this year and actual participation wasn't an option, St. John's made a monetary contribution to Lehigh Valley PRIDE.

We are proud that our church keeps participating in these events in and around the Lehigh Valley and Reading.



\*Lehigh Valley's Pride festival has been a vibrant community event since 1993. In 2017, Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley merged with Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. The exciting community event provides a spotlight on LGBT arts and culture, connects thousands of community members to local resources, provides full-day programming for LGBT youth and teens, and celebrates the diversity in our community. Lehigh Valley Pride has grown to include over 5,000 attendees.

*Contributed by Nadine Anderson on behalf of the Outreach Committee.*

## In the gallery...

The Gallery at St. John's remains temporarily closed.



From **Chris Swan** . . .

Thank all of you who helped make my birthday so special. The *chocolate cake* topped the day! It was delicious!!



## Altar Flowers Dedication

dates are available . . .

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Cost \$30.00

## **Blessing Box**

We are blessed to be a blessing to others . . .

*Give what you can . . .  
Take what you need.*

**Our "Blessing Box" is being monitored by our Membership Committee.**

**Please see a member if you would like to make a donation, or just place the items (non-perishable) in the box.**



## Staff Directory:

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

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

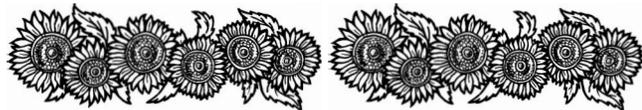
\*Note - Alison Fink (Nursery) and Don Johnson (Driver)  
 can be reached through the church office.

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

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

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