ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

a reconciling in Christ congregation

The Eagle

January 2023

New Series Volume MMXX111 – *No.* 1 2023

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles
Vicar: Vanessa Storlie
Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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From the Vicar . . . January 2023

I recently saw a post on Facebook that said something to the effect of: ***"Jesus' biggest miracle was having twelve close friends in his 30s."***

While I certainly don't mean to make light of all the miracles that Jesus performed, and the impacts on the people they helped, I think we can all relate to wanting to have more friends in our lives.

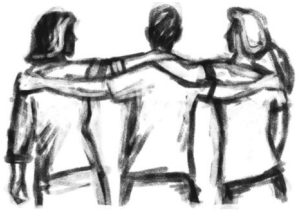
I read a statistic that the number of "close friends" that we have continues to decline. A survey of people's social connections was done in 1985 and again in 2004. The survey asked people:

"Over the last six months, who are the people with whom you discussed matters important to you?"

In 1985, the most common number of friends was three and 59% of people responding indicated they had at least three friends that fit this description. By 2004, the number of people with three or more friends had dropped to 37% and the most common number of friends with whom you might discuss important matters had dropped to ZERO, and a full 25% of people surveyed indicated they had no one with whom to discuss important matters.

As this epidemic of loneliness continues to grow, how do we learn to be better friends? Jesus gives us an example of how we can accomplish this. Jesus regularly took time with those he encountered to listen to their concerns, to be vulnerable with them, and even to take part in the activities they were doing. We can do the same today.

One thing I like to do is eat ice cream – even in January. I'd like to invite you to join me for a time of ice cream and conversation at Bank Street Creamery.
Saturday, January 14 at 1 pm.



Please let me know if you are coming by calling the church office or sending an email to vicar2@stjohnseaston.org by January 12. I look forward to getting to know you better.

In peace, Vicar Vanessa

The staff at St. John's hopes your Christmas Season was full of Joy, Hope, and Love. We wish you a New Year full of health and happiness. God Bless.

Come and Participate:

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday—January 29th, 2022
- following Worship

Please make time to join us for this important event.

Membership Committee will be providing the main dish, and asks the Congregation to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Committee Chairs—Annual Reports due to the office on 1/10/23.

New Members of Council for the 2023-2024 term:

Panama Crozier
Wayne Docker
Laura Genn
Rob Smith (2nd Term)

Thank you, Diane Coker, Carol Faulkner & Chris Orem for your service.

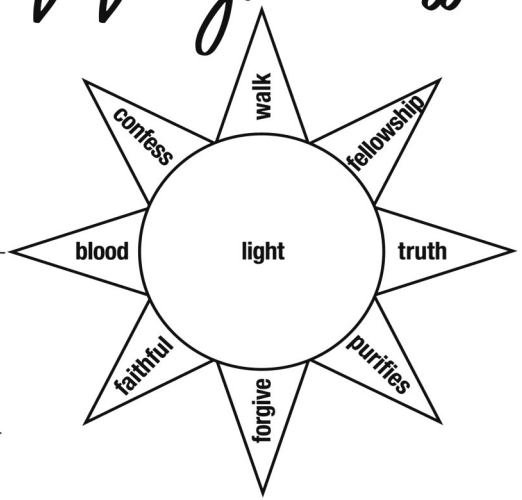
The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

_____

Directions:
Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.

_____



But if we _____ in the _____ , as he is in the _____,

we have _____ with one another, and the _____

of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be

without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.

If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will

_____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Begins 1/8/22)

Breakfast: 8:30 am

(In the Fellowship Hall)

Class: 9:00 am

Let the Little Children Come to Me . . .
Matthew 19:14

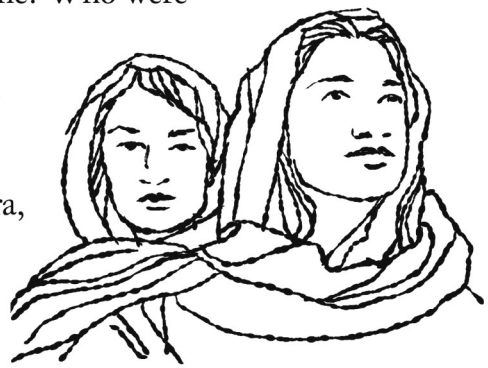
January Adult Forum
Topic: Women of the Bible

Sundays in the Gallery
9:00 am

Bible Quiz

Though daughters weren't allowed to inherit property, some young women whose father had died appealed to the community's leaders to change the law in their favor — and it was done! Who were these women?

A. Mary and Martha
B. The daughters of Zelophehad
C. Nympha, Sapphira, Claudia, Tabitha and Lydia
D. Joanna, Susanna and Salome



Answer: (See Numbers 27:1-11.)

January ~ 10:30 am Worship

Altar Guild: Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

January 1 — First Sunday of Christmas

Liturgical Color:	White
Reading:	Matthew 2:13-23
Reader:	Chuck Lewis
Worship Assistant:	Chris Orem
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

January 8 — Epiphany of Our Lord

Liturgical Color:	White
Reading:	Matthew 2:1-12
Reader:	John Fritchman
Worship Assistant:	Jim Heck
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

January 15 — Baptism of Our Lord

Liturgical Color:	White
Reading:	Matthew 3:13-17
Reader:	Mike Thompson
Worship Assistant:	Joyce Petty
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

January 22 — Third Sunday after Epiphany

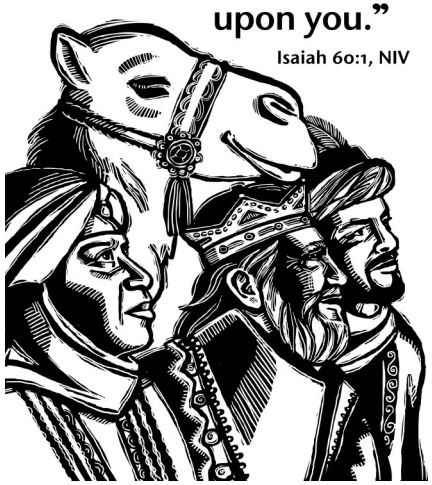
Liturgical Color:	Green
Reading:	Matthew 4:12-23
Reader:	Larry Transue
Worship Assistant:	Vicar Vanessa
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

January 29 — Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Liturgical Color:	Green
Reading:	Matthew 5:1-12
Reader:	Charlie Hanson
Worship Assistant	Roger Ruggles
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the **glory** of the **LORD** rises upon you."

Isaiah 60:1, NIV



Epiphany of Our Lord . . .

January 8, 2022

The feast of Epiphany concludes the Christmas season.

Like the light of God, the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: Children of God. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

Winter Weather Policy

Just a reminder.
In case of inclement weather–
Worship will not be cancelled.
If you can walk, join us.
If you don't feel comfortable
driving, stay home
and join us in prayer.
Know that we are still worshipping
and praising God Together.

*Online Worship Services are posted on Tuesdays following Sunday Worship.

Www.stjohnseaston.org

January 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	W
1 **Weekly:** Sunday School Breakfast–8:30 am Sunday School –9:00 am Worship–10:30 am	2 Office Closed No Choir	3 Bible study– 11:00 am, Hospitality Room	4 Counc t
8 Following Worship: Intern Comm. Membership	9 Choir Rehearsal 1:00 pm Sanctuary Council Meeting– Chapel 7:00 pm	10 Annual Reports Due Bible study– 11:00 am, Hospitality Room	11
15 Following Worship: Property Mtg.	16 Choir Rehearsal 1:00 pm Sanctuary	17 Bible study– 11:00 am, Hospitality Room	18
22 Art Gallery Opening Artists Reception 12:00 pm	23 Choir Rehearsal 1:00 pm Sanctuary	24 Bible study– 11:00 am, Hospitality Room	25
29 Following Worship: Annual Congregational Meeting	30	31 Bible study– 11:00 am, Hospitality Room	

Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Reports Due	5	6	7 Confirmation Class @ Pastor Sue's 9-11:00 am
	12 Prayer Group 9:30 am	13	14 Archive Committee 10:00 am
	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
	26 Prayer Group 9:30 am	27 Newsletter Folding	28
	Al-Anon Wednesdays 10:00 am Fellowship Hall	NA Thursdays 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall	

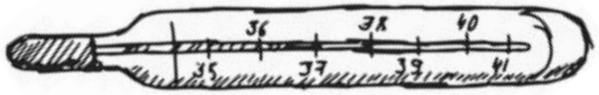
The Outreach Committee would like to thank all who made donations to the *Bethlehem/Easton Mission District* Christmas Ingathering.
164 individual packs of facial tissues and 82 deodorants were received.
Through your generosity, 12 agencies, who serve many people, benefitted, including Safe Harbor, Turning Point, ProJeCt of Easton and Bright Hope (formerly Care-Net), Easton.
*We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped at the ingathering.

- God's Blessings, The Outreach Committee

We are truly blessed to have so many people volunteer to help with the Inside / Outside Christmas Program.
Thank you to all who purchased toys, wrapped presents, or handed out gifts. With your help we were able to make Christmas memories for over 66 children.

The Membership Committee would like to thank all who helped with the Home-Bound Christmas Deliveries. Our Homebound members received a Poinsettia, Christmas Cookies, and an Accessory Holder made by the Quilters.

Your Health Matters !



Remember, If you are sick, or think you are getting sick, S T A Y H O M E ! ! !

Join us when you are feeling 100%.

The Lord is going to forgive you!
In fact, maybe even bless you
for thinking of others.

When you come to church while being sick, getting to close to people, shaking hands, and rubbing shoulders with others, you are risking the health of those around you, and spreading illness.
Thank you for your consideration.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
In January we acknowledge our commitment to Reconciling in Christ, and our partnering with the communities ongoing work to welcome, include, celebrate and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ people around us and in the life of the church.

Let us pray . . .

Loving creator, you knit us together and created our inner most beings. You created us loved, worthy, and unique. You created us LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, neurodiverse and physically diverse. Help us to find our wholeness in you and live into our divinely inspired purpose. Guide us to unfold your story of love. Amen.

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1/2—Jahsai Mack
1/7—Terry Horinko
1/14—Anthony Pitt
1/15—Anne Fritchman
1/17—Wayne Docker
1/19—Kathryn Kessler
1/20—E. Louise Ward
1/22—Monica Weiss-Nolen
1/23—Rob Smith
1/23—Karl Von Lang
1/25—Danielle Howey
1/28—Allison Cressman

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

Snowflakes are Beautiful, Pure and White, and Like God's Children, No Two are Alike.

Homebound member—Ethel Louise Ward will be celebrating her 96th Birthday on January 20th. Let's shower her with cards, and let her know she is special, and we are thinking of her. Cards can be sent to:

Ethel Louise Ward
C/O: Gracedale Nursing Home
2 Gracedale Avenue
7th Floor
Nazareth, PA 18064

The 2023 Altar Flower
Dedication Sign-Up List
is now available in
the Narthex.

Help us continue to beautify
the sanctuary with God's creation . . .

"All right, Ms Henley, we'll turn up the heat."

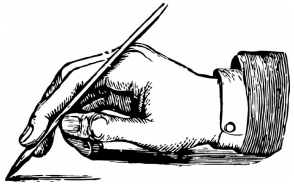
Remember to fill the FUEL envelopes found in your envelope boxes . . .

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, DEC. 30TH & MONDAY, JAN. 2ND

The Gallery at St. John's
"Say Grace"

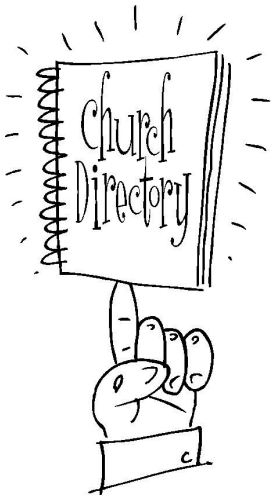
- Opening, January 22, 2023



Artist David Berkner,
whose work depicts scenes from
"The Last Supper"
painted on refrigerator doors.

Gallery Open Sundays (12:00-3:00 p m)

The Gallery at St. John's is always looking for Volunteers.



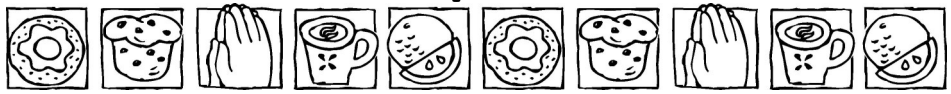
We are updating the
2023 Directory.

Help us get your correct
information.

Do you have a
new address ?
phone number ?
e-mail address?

Please let the church office know.

2023 Fellowship Hour Calendar



Month	Date	Committee
January	1, 15, 22	Membership
February	5, 12, 19, 26	Finance
March	12, 19, 26	Mutual Ministry
April	16, 23, 30	Intern Committee
May	7, 14, 21, 28	Spiritual Life
June	11, 18	Property
July	2, 16, 23, 30	Council
August	6, 13, 20	Rachel's Circle
September	10, 17, 24	Sunday School
October	1, 8, 15, 22	Outreach
November	5, 19, 26	Altar Guild
December	10, 17, 24, 31	Choir

Volunteer Opportunity

Counters Needed
Please contact Brad Thomas
For more information.

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