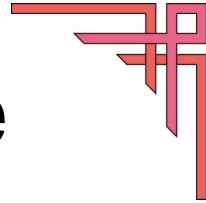


The Eagle



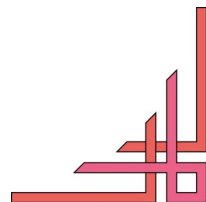
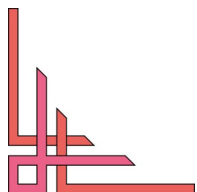
January, 2018

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ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

a reconciling in Christ congregation
330 Ferry Street
Easton, PA 18042

The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles, Pastor
phone: 610-258-6119
e-mail: stjohnseaston@gmail.com
website: stjohnseaston.org



PASTOR'S DESK



2018!! Welcome to the New Year! The first of January is the beginning, according to the calendar that we follow in the USA. The Gregorian calendar, as it is known, was adopted in 1592 and is a solar calendar. That means that dates are indicated by the position of the earth as it revolves around the sun.

It is of course not the only calendar around. Russia, India, Korea, and Ethiopia all use different calendars (to name a few places). There are cosmic calendars, geologic calendars and even fictional calendars. It is always interesting to me as we discuss dates on the calendar when on Sundays, the church pays attention to the **liturgical** calendar. The liturgical calendar began last December with the start of Advent. In January, we will continue into Epiphany and the Sundays after Epiphany. Usually in the newsletter, there is a page informing you of the worship schedule and the liturgical day. By mid-February we will leave Epiphany and go into Lent.

The days of Epiphany focus the readings on the way Jesus was revealed to the people. It highlights how the followers of Jesus do not fully understand who he is. A pattern of identification of Jesus and invitation to be disciples continue.

We are reminded of when Jesus prayed that "they may be one so that the world may believe." (John 17:21) We don't just see Christ, we believe and tell others what we know to be the truth revealed!

In his name,

Pastor Sue

Received by Affirmation of Faith

John and Sharon Fritchman, 180 Cherry Hill Rd,
Nazareth, PA
Katie Fritchman, same address
Anne Fritchman, same address and
Connie Garr, 1112 Wood Ave., Easton

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Church Registry

Funeral James Howey Dec. 8, 2017
Uncle to Danielle and Aaron Howey
Brother to Russell and Rosemary Howey

Members Birthdays

(It this information needs fixing,
please notify the church office!)



| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jan. 1 Arlene Heimbach | Jan. 19 Kathryn Kessler |
| Jan 3 Gretchen Timko | Jan. 19 Keyara Rabuck |
| Jan. 7 Terry Horinko | Jan. 20 George Macher |
| Jan. 8 Helen Fritzo | Jan. 22 Monica Weiss-Nolen |
| Jan. 13 Kiana Rabuck | Jan. 23 Karl Von Lang |
| Jan. 15 Anne Fritchman | Jan. 25 Danielle Howey |
| Jan. 17 Wayne Docker | |

Worship Schedule

January 7th Epiphany of Our Lord
Color: white
Gospel lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

January 14th Second Sunday of Epiphany
Color: green
Gospel lesson: John 1: 43-51

January 21 Third Sunday of Epiphany
Color: green
Gospel lesson: Mark 1: 14-20

January 28 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
Color: green
Gospel lesson: Mark 1:21-28



St. John's will host a meal on Jan. 14 to raise
funds for Puerto Rico.

Transfiguration Sunday is Feb. 11
(Did you know? Many significant religious
events occurred on mountains)

February 13 is Shrove Tuesday and we will have
a desert night/celebration to raise funds for
Puerto Rico! Mark your calendars - fun for the
entire family!

**Attention Committee Chairs and
Congregational Officers**

Your written report to the Congregation for the Annual Report covering activity during 2017 is due into the Church Office no later than Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Thank you!

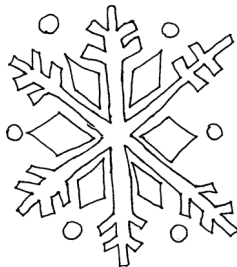
In December, the church council said, "Thank you" to Wayne Docker for his time serving on council! Newly elected to council at the December annual meeting was Victor Unks. Council elected the following as the officers:

Jim Heck, President
Ian Heck, Vice President
Christopher Orem, Secretary
Steve Moyer, Treasurer
Jim Kressler, Financial Secretary

Please congratulate them and keep them in prayer!

EXPECTING SNOW?

One never knows, but if it snows on a Sunday, the Worship at St. John's will not be cancelled. If you can walk, join us. If you do not feel safe driving, stay home and join us with your prayers knowing we are still worshipping and praising God together.



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN January 2018
Worship at 10:30 am, Gallery 12-3:00

January Altar Guild: Sylvia Orem, Barb Horinko



January 7th

Acolyte: Jonas Orange
Ushers: Phyllis Schurz, Wayne Docker
Worship Assistant: Roger Ruggles
Reader: Katie Fritchman
Communion Assistants: Barb & Les McCoy
Gallery: Rhemy Golab, Carol Faulkner

January 14th

Acolyte: Logan Weber
Ushers: Patsy Woodson, Loretta Heck
Worship Assistant: Victor Unks
Reader: Sean Hartman
Communion Assistants: Robert Smith, Roger Ruggles
Gallery: Steve Remel, Curtis Olson

January 21st

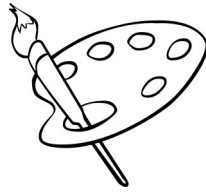
Acolyte: Jahsai Mack
Ushers: Robert Black, Jacob Ruggles
Worship Assistant: Jim Heck
Reader: Cindy Black
Communion Assistants: Christopher Orem, Sue Glenn
Gallery: MariAn Olson, Ilsa Von Lang

January 28th

Acolyte: Aaron Howey
Ushers: Shirley Kressler, Roger Ruggles
Worship Assistant: Christopher Orem
Reader: MariAn Olson
Communion Assistants: Robert Smith, Victor Unks
Gallery: Chris Swan, Linda Kalapay

Please, if you cannot make it, try to get a sub. If you can't, contact the church office.

IN THE GALLERY...January-February
The General Slocum Disaster,
Cindy Vojnovic paintings



An unbelievably tragic event happened on June 15, 1904. This incident was the worst tragedy, with the most lives lost in NYC until 9/11. Sadly, few people seem to know about it - even here in the Mid-Atlantic area of the United States where we live. It is a story of human error, greed and corruption.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church in lower Manhattan had chartered *The General Slocum Steamboat* for an afternoon on the East River when a fire broke out. The boat was seventeen years old and had never been inspected. The life jackets did not work, fire hoses had rotted and the life boats were nailed to the walls. Approximately 1,100 people died, mostly women and children, either by drowning or being burned to death. The congregation never recovered from such a loss nor did the lower east side.

Easton artist, Cindy Vojnovic, was living in New York City in the 1980s and was so moved by this tragedy that she decided to do a painterly interpretation of the incident. When she began her research she found little more than newspaper articles on microfilm. No books had been written about such a horrific event. That was prior to the 100th anniversary and before the publication of *Ship Ablaze* by Edward O'Donnell. Three "instant books" were done almost immediately after the disaster but even the reference librarian at the New York City Public Library main branch was unable to find them. It took from 1987, when Cindy decided to paint this story, until 2014 for her to do the first painting, "Retrieving Bodies." One reason for this was grappling with just how to visualize scenes of such unspeakable horror.

Cindy has spent several years on this project and only recently completed the 22 paintings that make up the exhibit which will be on display at The Gallery at St. John's during January and February 2018.

Cindy will give a brief talk during the Opening Reception. **She is very pleased to be showing this in a Lutheran church since this tragedy took the lives of so many Lutherans.** Cindy has had inquiries from at least two galleries in NYC that are interested in the exhibit.

-MariAn Olson

Opening Reception: January 7, 12:00 – 3:00 pm.

Artist's Talk: 12:30 pm

Thanks

...To the Thrivent Team Action program, the volunteers, all who brought in food for the 52 Family Thanksgiving baskets, and to the anonymous donors who paid for turkeys! Thank you!

....To the 3 volunteers who worked at the Bethlehem/Easton Mission District Christmas Ingathering and all who brought in items-85 personal care items, 80 lotions, 10 deodorants! Thank you!

...To all who helped decorate the church for Christmas, delivered poinsettias and who served/sang/or made worship wonderful. Thank you!

...To the Thrivent Team Action program and all who helped with the 'Christmas Wishes Inside Out' gifting for children whose parents are incarcerated. Thank you!

...To Almighty God, the giver of all things, and the Holy Spirit who guides us to use our hands to help and Jesus Christ who showers us with love. Thank you!

From the Outreach Committee

Take this list with you shopping!

Highlighted items for January to bring and place in the narthex gathering baskets:

- Rice, any type *for ProJeCt food pantry*
- Low sodium soups and stews *for ProJeCt food pantry*
- Jelly, preserves, canned vegetables *for ProJeCt food pantry*

- Canned meats (pop lids only), lunchbox size tuna, peanut butter crackers, canned fruit, granola bars, easy to carry/no can opener or cooking required *for those in need who stop by the church (cabinet in the gallery!)*

- Sugar, pancake mix/syrup, coffee *for Safe Harbor*
- Paper products *for Safe Harbor*
- Air fresheners, tissues *for Safe Harbor*
- T-shirts (L, XL, XL) *for Safe Harbor*
- Women's/Men's underwear *for Safe Harbor*
- Duffle bags

- Lap robes, scarves, gloves *for Meals on Wheels*
- Toiletries, stamps *for Meals on Wheels*
- Canned pasta/ravioli, mac/cheese *for Back Pack Buddy program*
(NOTE: delivery date for Back Pack Buddy is February 2)

“Faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

From the Outreach Committee

When we begin the Giant Gift Card Program, our mission was to raise money to be distributed to help those in need. Since we began the program, with your support in purchasing the cards, we have raised \$400. This amount is being donated to help Puerto Rico during their recovery from the disaster caused by the hurricane. We greatly appreciate your support.

Rico Relief



To raise money to help Puerto Rico, two events are being planned. A brunch will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018, following worship service. A festival on Shrove Tuesday, February 13, 2018 beginning at 6:30 PM will include deserts, games, fun for the entire family! Please mark you calendars for these two events.

Congregational meeting!

The Congregation meeting is January 28th after church. Please attend this important meeting as we reflect on the past 12 months and plan for this year. We have some important things to discuss and a quorum is needed!

Reports should be in the church two weeks before.

RIC Sunday January 28, 2018

The ecumenical community which welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities celebrates each year in January RIC Sunday. RIC stands for Reconciling in Christ. Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a program of Reconciling Works. This year the theme is 'Dreams and Vision of the Church Re-imagined.'

Since 1974, advocates looked for ways for Lutheran communities of faith to answer the inclusive call of the Gospel by welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Currently, there are 630 RIC settings in the United States, with 540 of them being congregations. Additional information about the RIC program, including a complete listing of RIC settings and resources for personal and congregational use, are available on-line at the website www.reconcilingworks.org.

As Lutherans, we believe that every human being reflects the Divine, and that each of us is a child of God, beloved and wonderfully made, just as we are. Christ calls us to work with all of God's people. Christ also calls us to work for justice.

Please join us to celebrate unity and welcoming with others.

How do I...

Join the church – Regularly scheduled classes for New Members are held after church. Next one in January. The class is about an hour long and we welcome everyone.

Have my child baptized- First, make sure to attend worship. Attend the class and when it is over, you and pastor will schedule the baptism.

Get a ride from the van to church-usually if you need a ride and the schedule allows enough time to get you, the van driver can pick you up.



In the past, these committees have met on these days. Please check with a committee chair if the scheduled day will continue in 2018.



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Finance | 1st Sunday after church (12:00) |
| Property | 2nd Sunday after church |
| Rachel Circle | 2nd Sunday |
| Council | 2nd Monday at 7:00 PM |
| Fine Arts | 2nd Tuesday at 1:30 |
| Outreach | 3rd Sunday after church |
| Membership | 4th Sunday after church |
| Mutual Ministry | Meets as needed |
| Coffee/Conversation | 4th Friday, 9:30 RT. 248 Target-Starbucks |
| Spiritual Life | Jan. 25 and TBA |

Quilters meet on Tuesdays as scheduled



All are invited....

Pastor and Roger invite you to their home for an open house on January 6th. It is sometimes called "Three Kings Day" so bring your myrrh, frankincense and gold (or in reality a gift you really didn't want or forgot to give at Christmas) and you will exchange it for another gift!

January 6th
1160 West Lafayette Street, Easton
1 PM—4 PM

St. John's Staff, and Church Council Directory

Office contact 610-258-6119 stjohnseaston@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor: Susan D Ruggles 610-253-7878
suerugs@gmail.com OR stjohnseastonpastor@gmail.com
Director of Music: Karla Lake 610-762-1653
kklake@rcn.com
Office Staff: Norma Rosner 610-258-6119
Yolanda Wheeler
Nursery Attendant: Alison Fink 484-542-2796
heckalison@gmail.com
Sexton: Larry Steinmetz 610-515-4435
Van Driver: Yolanda Atwood 484-714-2795

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Nadine Anderson 610-252-4656 NadineA@att.net
Charles Hanson 610-905-1767 bchanson1@rcn.com
Ian Heck 610-905-6906 stiwho02@gmail.com
James Heck 610-253-8680 jim@tatamyfarmbureau.com
Terry Horinko 610-923-6963 terryhorinko0@gmail.com
Jim Kressler 610-258-3789 poppopsboat@aol.com
Steve Moyer 610-923-8171 bbflat121@gmail.com
Christopher Orem 610-258-5031 cporem@ptd.net
Clifford Rose 610-252-8990
Phyllis Schurz 610-252-8337
Robert Smith 908-859-3706 dwilcoxsmith@gmail.com
Larry Transue 610-438-0214 larry@integrityinspection.com
Victor Unks 610-258-9517 Neakie@aol.com

ST JOHN'S COMMITTEE AND MINISTRIES Directory

Church Council:

Council President — James Heck 610-253-8680; jim@tatamyfarmbureau.com
Council Vice President — Ian Heck 610-905-6906; stiwh02@gmail.com
Council Secretary — Christopher Orem 610-258-5031; cporem@ptd.net
Treasurer — Steven Moyer 610-923-8171 (h); bbflat121@gmail.com
Financial Secretary — Jim Kressler 610-258-3789; poppopsboat@aol.com

Finance Committee Chair

Robert Smith 908-859-3706 dwilcoxsmith@gmail.com

Fine Arts Committee

MariAn Olson 610-250-6450 olsons.mc@gmail.com

Membership Committee Chair

Monica Weiss-Nolen 610-253-4949 weissML2@yahoo.com

Mutual Ministry Committee Chair

Carolyn Moyer 610-923-8171 chhmoyer@gmail.com

Outreach Committee Chair

Patsy Woodson 610-258-3783

Property Chair Committee Chair

Roger Ruggles 610-253-7878 stjohnspropertyferry@gmail.com

Spiritual Life Committee Chair

Victor Unks 610-258-9517/ 610-653-8922 ©; neakie@aol.com

Rachel Circle Ministry

Dee Caul 610-252-3496 dicaul@outlook.com

Quilters

Shirley Kressler or Loretta Heck (see Kressler or Heck above)

Prayer Group

Phyllis Schurz

Counters - under the supervision of the financial secretary

Altar Guild - Lois Ann Calloway

Capital Campaign for Organ Committee—TBA

From the By-Laws:

Featured Committee — Membership Committee.

It shall be the responsibility of this committee to review the membership rolls of the congregation, to seek to recruit members into active participation in the various activities and functions of the congregation, to care for and minister to members in time of need, and to develop opportunities for members to respond to the love of God in Jesus Christ through regular and consistent financial support of the ministries of the congregation. To accomplish these responsibilities the Membership Committee may plan and execute various fellowship activities; maintain a database of members referencing information relevant to interests and abilities that might be useful in creating and sustain various ministries of the congregation' and conduct annual campaigns to encourage commitments of time, talent, and treasure to the work of the congregation.