

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

a reconciling in Christ congregation

The Eagle

April 2024

New Series Volume MMXXIV – No. 4, 2024

Interim Pastor: The Reverend Mike Button
Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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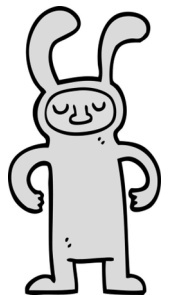


April 2024—From the Pastor

Easter sermons are hard, or should I say, Easter sermons are hard for me. That's because I make them hard. Proclaiming Easter should be like falling off a log. The greatest Easter sermon ever delivered was a simple call and response: "Christ is risen." "He is risen indeed." What more is there to be said? The Son of God has burst asunder death's strong bands (to quote a Luther hymn - ELW 370) and now death has lost its sting (to quote the Apostle Paul). Although most parishioners might welcome a shorter sermon, a three-second oration might be cutting it a little too short. During my internship I had a lady tell me that the pastor's sermon should be at least as long as it took her to drive to church. In her case, that was about 20 minutes! Any less than that, in her opinion, wasn't worth the drive time.

I admit that my ego gets in the way of preparing Easter sermons. After all, it's the biggest day of the entire church year. There will be, I hope, guests in the house. The pews are typically fuller than on any other Sunday. People will be expecting a sermon commensurate with the occasion. So, of course, I want to shine. I want to strut my homiletical stuff. Which is stupid. An Easter sermon is not about the preacher. What shines on Easter and through all eternity is the Risen Christ. It's the preacher's job to get out of the way so that God's Word of freedom can get loose in the world.

There was a homiletics professor [homiletics=preaching] who wrote an essay on ten things no preacher should ever do. Number six was, "Never wear a bunny suit on Easter Sunday." Now to be fair, I'm sure the preacher in that bunny suit was just trying to be funny, or clever, or something. And I'm equally sure that his or her audience that Easter Sunday remembered that "sermon" for many years. But come on! A bunny suit?



No matter how humbly crafted and humbly offered, no Easter sermon can ever fully expound the heights, the depths, the glory of Christ's resurrection from the dead. True, Easter is not just once a year. Every Sunday is an Easter, an occasion for proclaiming Christ crucified and risen. And anyway, the whole service doesn't revolve around the sermon, especially on Easter. There's the music, the hymns, the lessons, the liturgy, let's not forget the flowers, and of course, the Sacrament of the Altar. Still, after all these years of preaching the resurrection of Our Lord, I can't escape the feeling that I've barely scratched the surface of this surpassing mystery.

So, this March 31 when you leave church after another one of my disappointing Easter sermons, I suggest that you look up and listen to a piece from Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." "Pictures" is a piano suite in ten movements that Mussorgsky wrote following the sudden death of a dear friend, an artist and architect named Viktor Hartmann. In 1922 Maurice Ravel (of "Bolero" fame) arranged "Pictures" for a full orchestra which has since been recorded many times, many of which can be heard online. The whole piece is, in a word, daunting, but I would direct your attention to the tenth movement, titled "The Great Gate of Kyiv," also known as "The Bogatyr Gates."

Mussorgsky didn't necessarily compose it as a meditation on the resurrection, but there's something about it that is just simply transcendent. To me, it speaks of majesty, wonder, and most of all, promise, and Easter is most certainly about promise. Check out the full orchestration (it's only 5-6 minutes long), and for you rock 'n roll fans out there, the progressive rock supergroup Emerson, Lake & Palmer also did a version of "The Great Gate of Kyiv." Happy listening, and Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mike

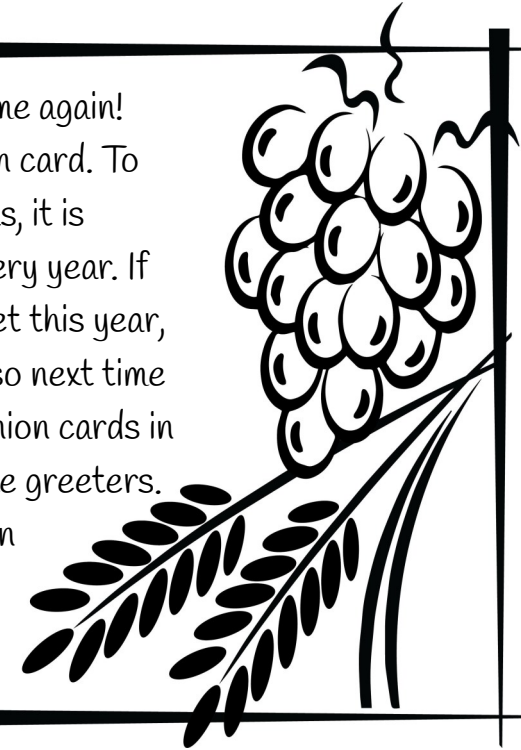


**The Church Office will be closed:
Monday, April 1st
for the Easter Holiday.**

***"May God's blessings **SPRING**
forth in your life . . ."***

Hello, everyone, it's that time again!
Time to fill out a communion card. To update our membership rolls, it is important to fill one out every year. If you haven't filled one out yet this year, please take the time to do so next time you are in church. Communion cards in the pews, or you can ask the greeters. Please fill one out and put in the offering plate.

Thank You All . . .



The Rachel's Circle would like to thank the congregation for all the donations to the Blessing Box. With your donations, we are able to feed hungry people around the community.

**Are you interested in attending the
Mission District Assembly ???**

The Mission District Assembly will be held on April 27th at:
*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,
67 W Washington Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018*

Each congregation in the Mission District should be represented by a rostered leader or pastoral care provider along with two lay delegates.

The two lay delegates should be the same as those who will be attending the Synod Assembly in June.

Along with other business, we will be electing a new Mission District Dean. Please give some thought in volunteering to attend this important event.

Or the Synod Assembly . . .

**Saturday
June 8
8:30am - 4:30pm**



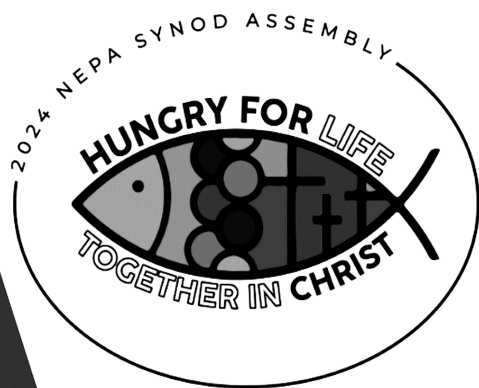
Atonement Lutheran Church
5 Wyomissing Blvd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610

First Ever Hybrid Assembly

Two attendance options for voting members: In-person and online (Zoom)

Registration: \$130
(same for both attendance options)

Lunch will be provided for the in-person gathering.



**Registration
Now Open**

*Registration will close at
midnight on May 10*

Registration questions should be directed to **Laurie Christman** at
laurie@nepynod.org
610-266-5101 ext. 111

Contact the Church Office for more information . . .
(Attending in person is not necessary, there will be a watch party at St. Paul's Third that volunteers can view!)

April ~ 10:30 am Worship

Altar Guild: Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem
Counters: Steve Moyer / Jim Heck

April 7

Second Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Color: White
Reading: John 20:19-31
Reader: Larry Transue
Worship Assistant: Jim Heck
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Barb Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway
Camera Team: David Faulkner

April 14

Third Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Color: White
Reading: Luke 24:36-48
Reader: Cindy Black
Worship Assistant: Joyce Petty
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Barb Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway
Camera Team: Steve Remel

April 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Color: White
Reading: John 10:11-18
Reader: Mike Thompson
Worship Assistant: Chris Orem
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Barb Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway
Camera Team: Brad Thomas

April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Color: White
Reading: John 15:1-8
Reader: Wayne Docker
Worship Assistant: Steve Moyer
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Barb Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway
Camera Team: Brad Thomas



Christian Symbol:

Butterfly—

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

Altar Flower sponsorship is a wonderful way to show gratitude for or honor loved ones. When altar flowers are dedicated, the names and messages are listed in our weekly bulletin so that others can share in your thoughtfulness.

Open Altar flower dates:
 April 7, April 21, April 28, May 5, May 12

ATTENTION PLEASE:

*As a courtesy to others, and the staff at St. John's . . .
 Please, NO Food or Drinks in the Sanctuary.
 Please, SILENCE your Cell Phones out of respect for those attending worship around us.*



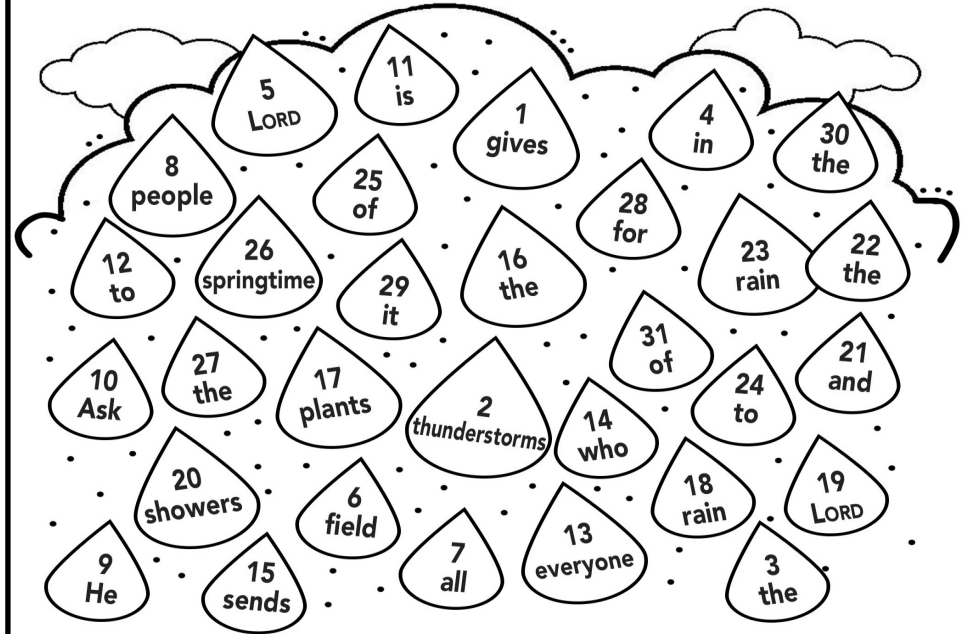
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	V
<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px;"> Sunday School / Adult Forum: Sundays 9:00 am Worship: Sundays 10:30 am </div>	1 Office Closed No Choir Rehearsal	2 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	3 Co Re D
7 Following Worship: Finance <hr/> Gallery Reception 12-3:00 pm	8 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm <hr/> Council Meeting—Chapel	9 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	10 Praye - Hospit 11:
14 Following Worship: Membership <hr/> Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm	15 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	16 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	17
21 Following Worship: Property Outreach <hr/> Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm	22 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	23 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	24 Praye - Hospit 11:
28 Following Worship: Rachel's Circle <hr/> Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm	29 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	30 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px;"> Al- Wed 10: Fellow </div>



Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Council Reports Due	4	5	6
Prayer Group Quality Room 10:00 am	11	12	13 Archives 10-12:00
Prayer Group Quality Room 10:00 am	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm
Prayer Group Quality Room 10:00 am	25	26 Newsletter Folding	27 Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm
Anon Wednesdays 10:00 am Fellowship Hall	NA Thursdays 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall		

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18
 _____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;
 _____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15
 _____ 27 _____ 2
 _____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23
 _____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25
 _____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV



Adult Forum: New Topic

“Letter of Love: A Study of 1 John”

Join us –Sundays at
9:00 am in the Gallery

?? Bible Quiz ??

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

“Dear friends, let us ____ one another, for ____ comes from God. Everyone who ____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ____ does not know God, because God is ____.”

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV.)

Join Us— Ages 3-UP
Sunday School,
Sundays @ 9:00 am



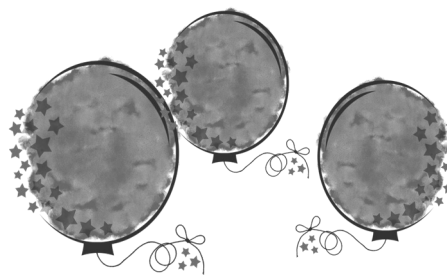
Need a ride to church?
Please call Carol Faulkner

610-559-5576

Celebrate

Anniversaries

Alison & Shawn Fink—4/27



Birthdays

Shirley Kressler—4/2

Derek Collins—4/3

Morgan Greenleaf—4/4

Howard Lewis—4/4

Stella Austin—4/9

Margaret Pitt—4/10

Barbara McCoy—4/15

Katie Fritchman—4/19

James Heck—4/22

Barbara Wilhelm—4/23

Amir Flucker—4/24

Tika Cressman—4/25

Jordyn Ruggles—4/29

Rhemy Golab—4/30

PRAYER CONCERNS:

CHUCK, DEANNA, PAM,
JAMES, KARA, CHRISTINE,
DONALD, JANICE, MATT,
CAROLYN, JULIA, CHARLES,
RITA, DONALD, TERRY,
MADELYN, BILL, CAITLIN,
MIKE, SARAH, ARLENE,
OUR HOMEBOUND FAMILY
AND FRIENDS, AND THE
FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF
MILDRED GILLINGHAM

REALIZING THE STATE OF
AFFAIRS THE WORLD IS IN,
AND IT'S NEED FOR
PRAYER, THE PRAYER GROUP
IS ASKING FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION . . .
JOIN US THE 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAYS @ 11:00 AM

Lutheran Disaster Response

Your gifts make it possible to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike.

Make an online donation:

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>

Give a monthly gift:

Become a monthly partner and give automatic, monthly gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response.

Mail your donation:

Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



Put your donations in the offering plate:
Please mark "Lutheran Disaster Relief")

Toys, Toys, Toys

The church Nursery is looking for used, unbroken, toys in good shape to replace some of the older toys in the Nursery.

If you are a grandparent with extra toys laying around, or a Parent with toys your kids have outgrown, please think about donating them to the church.



(Toys can be left in the box in the Hospitality Room.)

April Benevolence

The Center for Animal Health & Welfare

1165 Island Park Road—Easton, PA 18042

Every year during spring and summer, thousands of tiny kittens arrive in overwhelming numbers at our nation's animal shelters and they depend on us humans for love and care. Your help is needed to make sure every little whiskered one can look forward to a bright future.

When you open your home (and your heart) to fostering, that's exactly what you're doing. You're not only ensuring that these adorable fuzz balls get a chance to grow up and find families of their own, you're helping to make space in the shelter for other animals in need.

For more information on adopting or fostering, contact the Center at:
(610) 252-7722 / adoptions@healthyanimalcenter.org

There are many things the shelter needs and can use to keep them up and running if you are not looking to adopt or foster. Please consider making a monetary donation to the shelter, or donating the items from the list.

Donations needed:

Soft Dog Treats
Heavy Duty Dog Toys
Heavy Duty Dog Leashes
Martingale Collars
Bleach, Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Dawn Dish Detergent
Laundry Detergent
55 Gallon Heavy Duty Trash Bags
New or Gently Used Linens



A collection box will be in the Narthex throughout April. The Outreach Committee thanks you for your help.

The Gallery at St. John's presents . . .

The works of *Mary Button*

Opening — April 14th, 2024



Mary is a teacher, writer, designer, speaker, illustrator and daughter of Pastor Mike Button. Come see the liturgical and devotional art she creates and get inspired.

2024 Directory Update

Updated copies of the Church Directory are now available in the Narthex.



If you have any changes.
(Address, Phone, E-mail, ect...)
Please let the church office know.

Can you sing, or play an instrument?

Do you have a special talent you want to share?



We would love to know about it and find a place for it during worship . . .

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 FERRY STREET

EASTON PA 18042-4539

610-258-6119

(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)

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