

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

a reconciling in Christ congregation

The Eagle

February 2024

New Series Volume MMXXIV – No. 2, 2024

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

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From the Pastor—February 2024



The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe is the first installment of C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*. The story revolves around the four Pevensie children (Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy) who have been re-located from their home (and parents) in London to a country house far from the bombs the German Luftwaffe are hailing down on their native city during the Blitz. One day the children initiate a game of hide and seek, with Lucy (the youngest) hiding herself in a large, upright clothes closet (a wardrobe). As she crawls through the hanging coats on her way to the back of the wardrobe, Lucy passes into a strange country of perpetual winter, Narnia, where animals talk and the whole realm groans under the tyrannical rule of the wicked White Witch.

When we open the Bible to just about any page and begin reading, I like to think we're following the same path as little Lucy Pevensie on her way to what she thinks is just the back of the wardrobe. I know that there are all sorts of ways to read the Bible – for its history, theology, and moral teaching (all valid). But because the Bible is old (very old!) and complicated (with many strange names from strange places), it's easy to become intimidated, and just leave it to the scholars and experts to tell us what it says (or what they think it says). But a more helpful approach to the Bible is the one that Lewis suggests in Lucy Pevensie's journey into the wardrobe.

Think of the Bible as a portal, a passageway between two worlds. As we read the Bible we enter an altogether strange and sometimes dangerous environment.

What makes the Bible strange is not just its ancient origins or its different cultural background(s). When we engage the Bible, we're passing from the world we know to the world as God sees it, and the world as God sees it is a very different, and often uncomfortable, place from how we typically view reality. Take, for instance, this verse from the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the peacemakers." If you were to take an inventory of all the statues and monuments raised over all the centuries, you'd find that the vast majority are dedicated to wars and warriors. Rarely are the peacemakers hailed as national heroes, but in God's view of the world, the peacemakers are blessed, "for they will be called children of God."

The Bible turns the world inside out and upside down. In the Bible the Prodigal Son is welcomed with mercy and celebration rather than judgment and condemnation. The eleventh-hour workers get the same wage as those who have labored the whole day. The crucified Jesus is raised the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

When I prepare a sermon, of course I want to understand the history and geography behind the text. I want to know, "Where's Bethel?" or "Who are the Samaritans," but I also want to listen for what's strange, unusual, or surprising. I imagine myself as little Lucy Pevensie crawling through the wardrobe into a world of hope over despair, love over hate, life over death.



Pease to you and all yours,

Pastor Mike



Join us as we Prepare . . .

Ash Wednesday—February 14th, 2024

† Mid-day Worship—12:00 pm (Service of the Word)

† Evening Worship—7:00 pm
(Traditional Worship w/ Communion)

Palm Sunday— March 24th, 2024

† Worship—10:30 am

Maundy Thursday— March 28th, 2024

† Worship—7:00 pm

Good Friday—March 29th, 2024

† Worship—7:00 pm

Easter Sunday— March 31st, 2024

† Worship—10:30 am

Lenten Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, as I embark on this Lenten journey, guide my steps and illuminate my path with your wisdom. May your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my soul. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."



Join the Easton Community Lutheran
Churches for . . .

*Lenten
Midweek
Services*

*Light Meal – 6:00 pm
Worship – 7:00 pm*

† *Wednesday—February 21st*
@ St. Paul's Third 2561 Newburg Rd, Easton, PA 18045

† *Wednesday—February 28th*
@ St. John's 330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

† *Wednesday—March 6th*
@ Arndt's Lutheran Church 1851 Arndt Rd, Easton, PA 18040

† *Wednesday—March 13th*
@ United Fellowship 2115 Washington Blvd. – Easton, PA

† *Wednesday—March 20th*
@ St. Andrew's 3900 Freemansburg Ave, Easton, PA 18045

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.*



February ~ 10:30 am Worship

Altar Guild: Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

February 4

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: Mark 1:29-39
Reader: Cindy Black
Worship Assistant: Steve Moyer
Comm. Assistants /Usher: Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman
Camera Team: Dave Faulkner

February 11

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Liturgical Color: White
Reading: Mark 9:2-9
Reader: Wayne Docker
Worship Assistant: Joyce Petty
Comm. Assistants /Usher: Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman
Camera Team: Steve Remel

February 14

Ash Wednesday

Liturgical Color: Purple
Reading: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Reader: Volunteer
Worship Assistant: Chris Orem
Comm. Assistants /Usher: Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman
Camera Team: Volunteer

February 18

First Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple
Reading: Mark 1:9-15
Reader: Charlie Hanson
Worship Assistant: Steve Moyer
Comm. Assistants /Usher: Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman
Camera Team: Brad Thomas

February 25

Second Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Color:

Purple

Reading:

Mark 8:31-38

Reader:

Mike Thompson

Worship Assistant:

Joyce Petty

Comm. Assistants /Usher:

Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman

Camera Team:

Brad Thomas



Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent.

The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the **Ash Wednesday** liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible. The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal, new life. They were used anciently in the absence of soap.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust"
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God


FEBRUARY 2023



SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.
SUNDAY SCHOOL / ADULT FORUM: SUNDAYS 9:00 AM WORSHIP: SUNDAYS 10:30 AM			
4 FOLLOWING WORSHIP: FINANCE GALLERY OPENING	5 CHOIR REHEARSAL —1:00 PM	6 BIBLE STUDY—HOSPITALITY ROOM 10:00 AM	7
11 FOLLOWING WORSHIP: MEMBERSHIP	12 CHOIR REHEARSAL —1:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING—CHAPEL 7:00 PM	13 BIBLE STUDY—HOSPITALITY ROOM 10:00 AM	14 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & 7:00 PM PRAYER - HOSPITALITY ROOM 11:00 AM
18 FOLLOWING WORSHIP: PROPERTY SPIRITUAL LIFE	19 CHOIR REHEARSAL —1:00 PM	20 BIBLE STUDY—HOSPITALITY ROOM 10:00 AM	21
25 FOLLOWING WORSHIP: RACHEL'S CIRCLE	26 CHOIR REHEARSAL —1:00 PM	27 BIBLE STUDY—HOSPITALITY ROOM 10:00 AM	28 PRAYER - HOSPITALITY ROOM 11:00 AM



WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
	1	2	3
	8	9	10 ARCHIVES 10-12:00 PM
WEDNESDAY 12:00 PM COUNSELING GROUP COUNSELING ROOM 10 AM	15	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17
	22	23 NEWSLETTER FOLDING	24
COUNSELING GROUP COUNSELING ROOM 10 AM	29	AL-ANON WEDNESDAYS 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL	NA THURSDAYS 7:30 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL



PUZZLE

CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

a. We

b. Above all,


c. My command is this:

d. And over all these virtues put on

e. Greater

f. See what great

g. There is no fear in



1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1

6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3

*Winter is Here . . .
In the case of inclement weather,
please check your e-mails, church
website, and*

*WFMZ Stormcenter
– Channel 69 News*

for information on the church closing.

*If you do not receive general e-mails from the
church, please send a quick e-mail to the church
office to be included on our list.*

Admin@stjohnseaston.org



“SOUPER” BOWL of CARING

Sunday—February 4th

&

Sunday—February 11th

The Outreach Committee will be collecting Soup !!!

For the 2024 - *Souper Bowl of Caring* campaign, the Outreach Committee will be collecting canned soups and bags of soup beans to be donated to —the *Project of Easton Food Pantry*.

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

The Outreach Committee

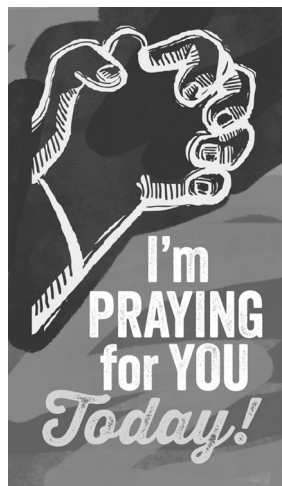


Prayer Concerns:

Chuck, Fritzie, Sandy, Pam,
James, Kara, Christine, Carolyn,
Julia, Charles, Donald, Jim, Betty,
Terry, Madelyn, Ken, Sarah,
Louise, Tony, Caitlin, Arlene, and
Our Homebound Family
and Friends . . .

*“Therefore I tell you, whatever
you ask for in prayer, believe
that you have received it,
and it will be yours.”*

Mark 11:24



*The Outreach Committee would like to thank
everyone who donated to the
December - Mission District Ingathering . . .
Together we donated
149 tooth-pastes and 114 tooth-brushes.*





LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE WHERE NEEDED MOST

ELCA.org/disaster

In the face of disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow. From wildfires to hurricanes to refugee crises, we are present when disaster strikes, ready to accompany communities through relief and recovery. We are also in communities when there are no impending disasters, preparing people to mitigate the effects of a disaster and enabling them to bounce back more quickly.

Lutheran Disaster Response relies upon strong partnerships with global companion churches, ELCA synods and Lutheran

social service organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

Yes, I want to help!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Where needed most" on
your check's memo line.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



the Gallery at St. John's . . .

~ Artist Michael Palladino ~

Featuring—"Local Nature"

(- carved and torched wood workings
with encaustic inlay)

February 4th—March 10th

*(A salute to the birds, insects, fish, snakes and animals of
our environment in the Easton area and
the Delaware river.)*

Gallery Hours: Saturdays & Sundays 12:00—3:00 pm

February Birthdays

2/1—Frank Kutch
2/3—Cole Transue
2/3—Panama Crozier
2/7—Phyllis Schurz
2/8—Jonas Orange
2/9—Katie Hunsicker
2/9—Patsy Woodson
2/11—Helene Sirotnak
2/12—Megan Heck
2/14—Ja'mari Mack
2/14—Logan Weber
2/16—Thomas Gilbert
2/16—Charles Lewis
2/17—MariAn Olson
2/18—Tara Fogel
2/22—Dee Caul
2/25—Michelle Fritzo

February Anniversaries

2/9—Helen &
John Border
2/18—Carol &
David Faulkner
2/24—Shirley &
James Kressler



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



**Celebrating You
on Your
Special Day**



With Deepest Sympathy

Ethel Louise Ward

January 20, 1927 –
December 7, 2024

~

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

Psalm 136:26

~

Please keep her family and
friends in your prayers.

~

2024 Council Members:

Welcome

*Cindy Black, &
Barbara Horinko,*

And thanks to those who are
continuing to support our
congregation.

*Bob Black,
Monica Weiss-Nolen,
Judi Kalapay,
Brad Thomas,
Panama Crozier,
Wayne Docker,
Carol Faulkner and
Rob Smith.*

Adult Forum: New Topic

**Everything You Wanted to Know about
Sunday Worship But Were Afraid to Ask."**

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



Join us for Sunday School,
for Fun and Friends . . .
Sundays at 9:00 am
(upstairs in the Sunday School Classrooms.)

Ages 3-UP

NON-PROFIT

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EASTON PA

PERMIT #310

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 FERRY STREET

EASTON PA 18042-4539

610-258-6119

(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)



**Ash Wednesday –
February 14th
Mid-Day Ashes & Worship
12:00pm in the Chapel.
7:00 pm – Traditional
Worship**