

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

a reconciling in Christ congregation

The Eagle

January 2024

New Series Volume MMXXIV – No. 1, 2024

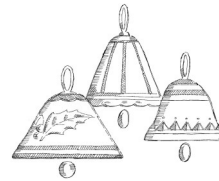
Interim Pastor Reverend Mike Button
Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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On Christmas Day, 1863 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was America's most famous and beloved poet. Though not so popular today, many of us may remember from high school English having to memorize some of Longfellow's most famous lines, like this verse from his



Song of Hiawatha:

*"By the shore of Gitche Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
At the doorway of his wigwam,
In the pleasant Summer morning,
Hiawatha stood and waited."*

Even more familiar, **Paul Revere's Ride:**

*"Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,"*

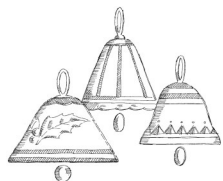
or from- **The Village Blacksmith,**

*"Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands."*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was the son of American royalty – his mother was the daughter of a Revolutionary War hero and his father a prominent lawyer in Portland (what is now Maine but then still part of Massachusetts) and later a member of Congress. Upon his graduation from Bowdoin College, Longfellow's education continued with a three-year sojourn in Europe. Upon his return to America in 1831 he married a former classmate, Mary Storer Potter, who would die four years later from complications of a miscarriage.

Longfellow joined the faculty of Harvard in 1836 as a professor of modern languages. In 1843 he married Frances Appleton, a marriage that brought him great happiness and six children. In a tragic accident Frances died in 1861, shaking Longfellow to his core. As the Civil War began, Longfellow's son, Charles, enlisted in the Union Army, against his father's wishes, and in the Battle of Mine Run was severely wounded.

So: the world-famous poet who sat at his writing desk on Christmas Day 1863 was a man in emotional and spiritual torment. He was deeply depressed – over the death of his adored wife, over the devastating injuries suffered by his son, over the fratricidal Civil War that had torn asunder his cherished country. Here's what he wrote:



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and mild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

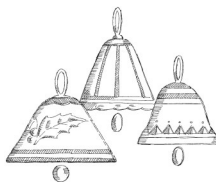
*Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."*



Wishing you peace and a Happy New Year,
Pastor Mike

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Congregational Meeting



JANUARY 28TH, 2023 - FOLLOWING WORSHIP

*Please make time to attend this
important event!*

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL HOST A LUNCHEON IN THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL FOLLOWING THE MEETING.

THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO BRING SIDE DISHES OR DESSERTS TO SHARE.



The church office will be closed:

January 1st and January 2nd

for the New Years Holiday.

See you January 3rd . . .



Prayer Concerns:

Chuck, Fritzie, Sandy,
Pam, James, Kara, Bill,
Joe, Christine Skip,
Robin, Danny, Tammy,
Carolyn, Julia, Charles,
Bill, Donald, Jim, Betty, Madelyn, Ken, Judy,
Judith, Louise, Sylvia, Tony, Caitlin, Liam,
Harold, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and
Friends and the Family and Friends of Chris
Yost and Lillie Lang



***I have heard your prayers and seen your
tears; I will heal you.***

From the CDC:

Respiratory Illnesses Are on the Rise.

There Is Still Time to Get Vaccinated

Respiratory illness activity is rapidly increasing across the United States, yet vaccination rates for COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) remain low. Millions of people may get sick in the next month or two, and low vaccination rates means more people will get more severe disease. Getting vaccinated now can help prevent hospitalizations and save lives.

Talk with your trusted healthcare provider about which vaccines you and your loved ones need to stay healthy this holiday season and into the new year.

January ~ 10:30 am Worship

Altar Guild: Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

January 7

Epiphany of Our Lord

Liturgical Color: White
Reading: Matthew 2:1-12
Reader: Larry Transue
Worship Assistant: Steve Moyer
Comm. Assistants / Usher: Panama Crozier / Connie Garr
Camera Team: Brad Thomas

January 14

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: John 1:43-51
Reader: John Fritchman
Worship Assistant: Chris Orem
Comm. Assistants / Usher: Panama Crozier / Connie Garr
Camera Team: Steve Remel

January 21

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: Mark 1:14-20
Reader: Karla Lake
Worship Assistant: Steve Moyer
Comm. Assistants / Usher: Panama Crozier / Connie Garr
Camera Team: Pete Lake

January 28

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: Mark 1:21-28
Reader: Lynn Kutch
Worship Assistant: Joyce Petty
Comm. Assistants / Usher: Panama Crozier / Connie Garr
Camera Team: Dave Faulkner

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



*May all kings
fall down
before him,
all nations
serve him!*

PSALM 72:11, ESV

The Three Wise Men Follow the Star

N	N	H	D	R	O	N	I	G	H	T	L	M	S
K	L	E	F	H	H	P	E	S	O	J	K	U	D
N	G	M	L	M	A	N	G	E	R	D	S	J	L
E	B	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	D	O	Y	J	O
E	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	D	J	F	P	Y	G
L	L	E	G	N	A	P	G	L	E	M	A	C	G
F	O	L	L	O	W	H	O	I	S	U	I	N	O
P	E	O	P	L	E	S	D	E	U	T	I	N	Y
B	A	B	Y	E	N	T	B	P	S	P	S	W	O
S	S	K	Y	E	G	A	E	H	E	Y	O	P	R
I	K	C	I	R	T	R	M	E	R	R	I	A	B
L	K	G	T	H	Y	E	L	K	M	A	E	O	A
G	I	F	T	T	O	S	O	I	O	M	R	I	R
A	F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	N

ANGEL
TRICK
MANGER
GIFT
FRANKINCENSE
MARY
CAMEL
TRAVELED
GOD
STAR
KNEEL
GOLD
TINY
NIGHT
BABY
THREE
PEOPLE
SKY
JESUS
JOSEPH
FOLLOW
SLEEPING
BORN
WORSHIP

January 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	W.
Sunday School / Adult Forum: Sundays 9:00 am Worship: Sundays 10:30 am	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3 Council D
7 Following Worship: Finance	8 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm Council Meeting— Chapel 7:00 pm	9 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	10 Prayer - Hos Ro 11:0
14	15 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	16 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	17
21 Following Worship: Property Membership Rachel's Circle	22 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	23 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	24 Prayer - Hos Ro 11:0
28 Following Worship: Annual Meeting and Luncheon	29 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	30 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	31

Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
l Reports Due	4	5	6
r Group pitality oom 00 am	11	12 Annual Meeting Reports Due.	13
	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
r Group pitality oom 00 am	25	26 Newsletter Folding	27
		Al-Anon Wednesdays 10:00 am Fellowship Hall	NA Thursdays 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall



St. John's Lutheran Church is a member of **ReconcilingWorks**. We are proud to support and participate in this group who advocates for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church.

In January **ReconcilingWorks** celebrates the partnerships they have made with faith communities .

Let us pray,
Holy and Living God, we open to you this day.
May peace flow and let justice roll down like
an ever-flowing stream.
Open our eyes and help us to see that
no one is outside your love;
outside our love.
Remind us that we are not alone
thanks to your abiding presence and the
ministry of **ReconcilingWorks**
and the Reconciling in Christ program,
through Jesus Christ, the
free gift of grace. Amen.



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—Ethel Louise Ward

1/22—Monica Weiss-Nolen

1/23—Robert Smith

1/23—Karl Von Lang

1/28—Allison Cressman

Join us for Sunday School,
for Fun and Friends . . .

Sundays at 9:00 am

(upstairs in the Sunday School Classrooms.)



Ages 3-UP

We can't wait
for you to join us . .

Adult Forum: New Topic, Beginning in January

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

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



Want to come to church but need
transportation?

Please call Carol Faulkner, and she will
work to get you a ride.



610-559-5576

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

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
OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK—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.

(A PRAYER OFFERED BY REV. BRAD SMITH,
FOUNDER OF THE SOUPER BOWL FOR CARING)



***"LORD, EVEN AS WE ENJOY THE SUPER BOWL
FOOTBALL GAME, HELP US TO BE MINDFUL
OF THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT A BOWL OF
SOUP TO EAT"***

TO CONTINUE THIS TRADITION AT ST. JOHN'S, PLEASE
BRING IN YOUR DONATION DURING THE FIRST TWO
WEEKS OF FEBRUARY, OR, DONATE TO A
FOOD BANK OF YOUR CHOICE.

ALL DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Altar Flower dedications are a wonderful way to show gratitude
for or honor loved ones. If you would like to sponsor Altar
Flowers, please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex, or call the
church office to see what dates are available for sponsorship.

Altar Flower Sponsorships are now
\$30.00

(It was decided to go back to old pricing . . .)

Many sponsorship dates are still available.



the *Gallery* at St. John's ...
will be exhibiting work by members of

ACE (Arts Community of Easton)
and
FAAS (Forks Area Arts Society)

Please join us:

Sunday, January 7th - 12:00-3:00 pm

Sunday, January 14th - 12:00-3:00 pm

Sunday, January 21st - 12:00-3:00 pm



*It only takes a moment to say "Thank
You" but your thoughtfulness will be
remembered for a long time . . .*

*We Thank Dee Caul for all the love, devotion
and hard work she put into the Rachel Circle
over the years as she steps
down from her position as
Rachel's Circle Chair.
God Bless Dee !*



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 _____

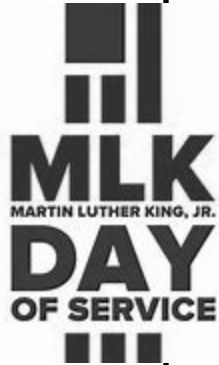
Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

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 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is a federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

It is celebrated on the third Monday of January each year, which falls on January 15, 2024 .

This day is an opportunity for people to come together and work towards building a more just and equitable society, where everyone is valued and respected, regardless of their race, ability, religion, or background.

Let's honor Dr. King's legacy by working towards a more just and equitable society this MLK Day!

Outreach Committee January Benevolence

Let January be a month of giving . . .



Remember to support these
organizations . . .

Meals on Wheels
The Center for Animal Health and Welfare
Third Street Alliance
Bloom / Truth for Women
Project of Easton
Safe Harbor
Lutheran World Relief
Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

Donations can be put in the offering plates. Please
mark which organization you are giving too.

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