

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a reconciling in Christ congregation*

## The Eagle

### March 2024

*New Series Volume* MMXXIV – No. 3, 2024

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

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### From the Pastor—March 2024

From 2008 to 2016 I made four different trips to Peru. The Lutheran Church in Peru was in a companion synod relationship with my own Gulf Coast Synod, and for some years the bishop's office organized what we came to call pilgrimages to Peru. On these pilgrimages, we did a lot of conventional mission trip stuff, like helping with vacation Bible schools, renovating buildings, and joining in youth activities, but we mainly focused on building relationships. We broke bread together, we worshipped together, and with the help of our translators, we swapped stories about our faith journeys. For me and for many of the youth I brought along with me, these were life-changing experiences.

As you might imagine, cultural immersion was also integral to our pilgrimages, and on several of these trips we traveled to Cusco, what had been the capital of the ancient Incan empire. The modern city of Cusco is about 12,000 feet up in the Andes, and from there, it's only a short drive to what was the Incan center of government, a site called Sacsaywaman. It's a massive archaeological wonder, with these gigantic stone walls carved out of the mountains by people who did not have metal tools. They're still trying to figure out how they did that.

As we toured the site, our guide took us to a huge rock outcropping through which the Incas had carved a tunnel. We were invited to walk on through, which our group and a bunch of other tourists proceeded to do. Now there are two things I wish I had known before I stumbled into this adventure. (1) The Incas were not big, tall Northern Europeans, so in walking through their tunnel even this medium-height pastor had to crouch down to keep from dinging my head. What's more, it was narrow, pretty much one-way traffic, maybe three feet wide at most. And (2) once about ten feet in, there was no light whatsoever. It was pitch dark. Dark as the grave. Dark as death.

It was the darkest environment I had ever experienced in my whole life. I could not see my hand in front of my face, but I could feel all these people in front of and behind me when all of a sudden, we stopped moving.

I'm guessing the claustrophobia became overwhelming, and I heard someone up front start to sob and hyperventilate. We were too jammed in to turn around and go back and it was so dark I, for one, had lost all my bearings. I didn't know up from down much less front from back. Panic was in the air, when somebody – God bless 'em – reached for their cellphone and clicked on the flashlight. It was the most beautiful light I had ever seen. More beautiful than any sunrise, sunset, or starry sky I had ever beheld. With that one little light, the panic disappeared. The freak-out was over, and we started to move again. It was miraculous, nothing short of miraculous. Isn't it amazing what just a little light can do? And that light doesn't necessarily have to come from a cellphone flashlight.

Oscar Wilde was a gay man when being gay was illegal. Although he was a celebrated poet and playwright, in 1895 an accusation landed him in an English court where he was ultimately convicted of gross indecency and sentenced to two years in prison. As he was being led off to jail, Wilde had to pass through a group of men, all of whom turned their backs on him, except for one man. This lone witness looked him in the face and tipped his hat to the convict. Wilde later wrote that this man's act of kindness sustained him through many long months of very dark confinement.

A tip of the hat. A compassionate smile.  
A kind word. The light that Christ shines  
on us is meant to be shared.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike



# LENTEN SERVICES

Join the Easton Community  
Lutheran Churches for . . .

## Lenten Midweek Services

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

† Wednesday—March 6th

@ Arndt's Lutheran Church (1851 Arndt Rd, Easton, PA)

† Wednesday—March 13th

@ United Fellowship (2115 Washington Blvd. – Easton, PA)

† Wednesday—March 20th

@ St. Andrew's (3900 Freemansburg Ave, Easton, PA)



ARNDT'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL—EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY—MARCH 30TH  
2:00 PM

Adult Forum:  
"Everything You Wanted to  
Know about Sunday Worship"  
Join us—Sundays at  
9:00 am in the Gallery

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

## Holy Week Schedule



- **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**

## Palm Sunday Brunch



*Join us for Food and Fellowship*

**Sunday—March 24th**

-following worship in the Fellowship Hall . . .

**Please bring a dessert  
to share !**

*(Volunteers are needed for set-up*

*March 23rd @ 10:00 am*

*And clean up following the brunch.*

*Please say YES when asked to help.)*



## March ~ 10:30 am Worship

Altar Guild: Judi Kalapay & Linda Kalapay

<u>March 3</u>	<u>Third Sunday in Lent</u>
Liturgical Color:	Purple
Reading:	John 2:13-22
Reader:	Karla Lake
Worship Assistant:	Jim Heck
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Bob & Cindy Black
Camera Team:	Pete Lake
<u>March 10</u>	<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u>
Liturgical Color:	Purple
Reading:	John 3:14-21
Reader:	Monica Weiss-Nolen
Worship Assistant:	Steve Moyer
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Bob & Cindy Black
Camera Team:	Steve Remel
<u>March 17</u>	<u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u>
Liturgical Color:	Purple
Reading:	John 12:20-33
Reader:	Chuck Lewis
Worship Assistant:	Chris Orem
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Bob & Cindy Black
Camera Team:	Brad Thomas
<u>March 24</u>	<u>Sunday of the Passion—Palm Sunday</u>
Liturgical Color:	Purple
Reading:	Mark 14:1-15:47
Reader:	Lynn Kutch
Worship Assistant:	Joyce Petty
Comm. Assistants /Usher:	Bob & Cindy Black
Camera Team:	David Faulkner



## March 28

## Maundy Thursday

Liturgical Color:

Reading:

Reader:

Worship Assistant:

Comm. Assistants /Usher:

Camera Team:



White

John 13:1-17, 31B-35

Jim Heck

Jim Heck

Bob & Cindy Black

Monica Weiss-Nolen

## March 29

## Good Friday

Liturgical Color:

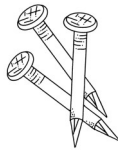
Reading:

Reader:

Worship Assistant:

Comm. Assistants /Usher:

Camera Team:



-

John 18:1-19:42

Steve Moyer

Steve Moyer

Bob & Cindy Black

Chris Orem

## March 31

## Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Sunday

Liturgical Color:

Reading:

Reader:

Worship Assistant:

Comm. Assistants /Usher:

Camera Team:



White

Mark 16:1-8

John Fritchman

Chris Orem

Bob & Cindy Black

Brad Thomas



### 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.*



# March 202

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	W.
<b>Sunday School / Adult Forum:</b> Sundays 9:00 am  <b>Worship:</b> Sundays 10:30			<b>AI- Wed 10: Fellow</b>
3 Following Worship: Finance  Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm	4 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	5 Bible Study—Hospitality Room 10:00 am	6 Cou Report  Mid Lenten 6:00 7:00 V (Ar
10 Following Worship: Membership  Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm	11 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm  Council Meeting—Chapel 7:00 pm	12 Bible Study—Hospitality Room 10:00 am	13 Pray - Hospit 11:0  Mid Lenten 6:00 7:00 V (Unitec
17 Following Worship: Property Outreach	18 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	19 Bible Study—Hospitality Room 10:00 am	20 Mid Lenten 6:00 7:00 V (St. A
24 Palm Sunday  Palm Sunday Brunch  Easter Sunday	25 Choir Rehearsal —1:00 pm	26 Bible Study—Hospitality Room 10:00 am	27 Prayer - Hos Re 11:0
31			



ed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>-Anon nesdays 00 am ship Hall</b>	<b>NA Thursdays 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall</b>	1	2  Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm
<b>ncil rts Due</b>	7	8	9  Archives 10-12:00  Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm
<b>lweek Worship Meal Worship ndt's)</b>	14	15  Newsletter Deadline	16
<b>er Group ality Room 00 am</b>	21	22  Newsletter Folding	23  Palm Sunday Brunch Set-Up 10:00 am
<b>lweek Worship Meal Worship d Fellow.)</b>	28  Maundy Thursday Worship—7:00 pm	29  Good Friday Worship—7:00 pm	30  Sunday School Egg Hunt @ Arndt's Church 2:00 pm
<b>r Group pitality oom 00 am</b>			

# EASTER Flower



## Order Form

*Easter morn with lilies fair  
Fills the church with  
perfumes rare,  
As their clouds of  
incense rise,  
Sweetest offerings  
to the skies.  
Stately lilies pure and white  
Flooding darkness  
with their light,  
Bloom and sorrow  
drifts away,  
On this holy hallow'd day.  
Easter Lilies bending low  
in the golden afterglow,  
Bear a message  
from the sod  
To the heavenly towers  
of God.*

*Help beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning  
with your dedications . . .*

Order Deadline: March 10th, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / Honor / Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

(\$9.00 / Plant)

A Note of Thanks . . .

As I reach the next stage of my cardiac rehab and recovery process, it's indeed time to give thanks to so many

in our congregation. Thanks to all

who sent cards, meals, or made

phone calls to express your

well wishes for my speedy

recovery. I would also

like to specifically thank

St. John's prayer group,

Brad Thomas who

graciously stepped in as

my substitute counter

during the entire month of

December and, of course,

Pastor Mike Button for his

timely visits and wise council

during my most vulnerable hours

during and after surgery.

Dr. Joseph Bavaria and the entire surgical team and nursing staff at Penn Medicine were truly remarkable in providing a gold standard level of care during my hospitalization, and to them I am, of course, forever grateful.

But my highest level of gratitude, without question, goes to Loretta (affectionately known to some of you as 'nurse Heck'...) for her exceptional combination of caring, compassion, understanding and love.

I can't thank you enough!

With a grateful (and now, rebuilt) heart, Jim Heck

Need a ride to church?

Please call Carol Faulkner

610-559-5576



## the Gallery at St. John's . . .

~ Artist Michael Palladino ~

Featuring—"Local Nature"

(- carved and torched wood workings  
with encaustic inlay)

February 4<sup>th</sup>—March 10<sup>th</sup>

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

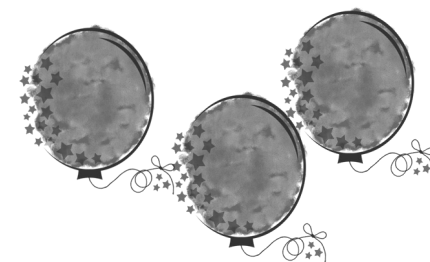
(A salute to the birds, insects, fish,  
snakes and animals of our  
environment in the  
Easton area and  
the Delaware river.)



## Celebrate

### Birthdays

3/5—Shawn Fink  
3/6—Ian Heck  
3/7—Amelia Fink  
3/10—Daniel Cressman  
3/13—Jeffery Skinner  
3/16—Melissa Lopez  
3/17—Stefanie Weber  
3/22—Mike Thompson  
3/26—Jo Riker  
3/27—Mia Ruggles  
3/28—Steve Moyer



### Anniversaries

3/3—John & Sharon Fritchman  
3/28—Julia & Charles Cortright

*\*Last month Bill and June Smith  
celebrated their anniversary and it  
was missed . . . February 14th  
Happy Anniversary!*



***A Note from member, Loretta Heck . . .***

Thank you St. John's,  
A friend of mine is having health problems, I shared the comfort of our library here at St. John's with him. He was very thankful for the peaceful, calming atmosphere and comfort he found there. In his words, "Thank you for sharing this wonderful space."



**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

CHUCK, SANDY, PAM,  
JAMES, KARA, CHRISTINE,  
MATT, CAROLYN, JULIA,  
CHARLES, PANAMA,  
SIENNA, MILDRED, DONALD,  
BETTY, TERRY, MADELYN,  
KEN, DORIS, SYLVIA, TONY,  
CAITLIN, MIKE, SARAH,  
ARLENE, AND OUR  
HOMEBOUND FAMILY AND

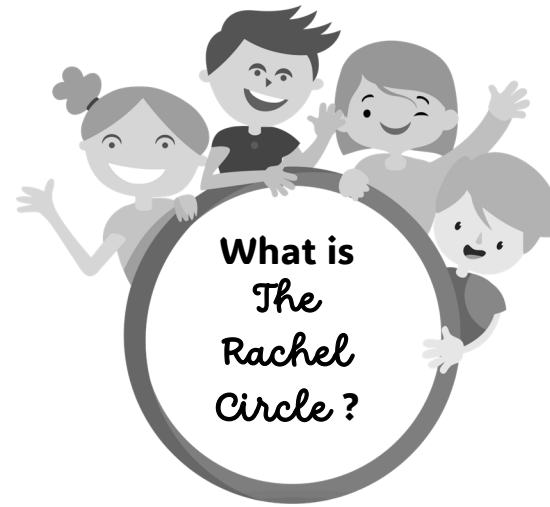
***The Outreach  
Committee***

would like to thank  
everyone who  
donated to the  
***"Souper Bowl  
Sunday"***  
soup collection.

With your help we  
were able to help  
many at the Project  
food pantry.



**The Project food  
pantry thanks us for  
our donation . . .**



First of all, lets start  
with what is a circle?

A circle is a group  
of women who gather  
for a purpose.  
Traditionally they  
are named after women  
in the bible.

*(At St. John's we invite  
both men and women  
to join . . .)*

*The Rachel Circle* and other circles were formed at St. John's  
decades ago; however, *The Rachel Circle* is the last  
functioning Circle at St. John's.

The initial mission of *The Rachel Circle*—and still our main  
mission, is to serve our home-bound members. Cards are sent  
throughout the year and a small gift, such as a handkerchief,  
bookmarker or Bible verse, are often included. Handmade lap  
robes were given one year at Christmas. In appreciation,  
thankyous are often received from the home-bound member  
or from their family members for remembering them.

*The Rachel Circle* has taken on other projects over the  
years including, a Spring Tea, Infant Kits for South Africa, and  
handmade blankets for the homeless. In 2022, an expanded  
Homelessness Project was added including The Vicar's Closet  
and the Blessing Box for example.

The Blessing Box is an on-going commitment, started  
by Pastor Sue Ruggles. The goal is to "give a blessing" to  
someone homeless or food deprived with a small amount of  
food. Keeping the Blessing Box stocked has been challenging  
as our inventory of food frequently runs out.

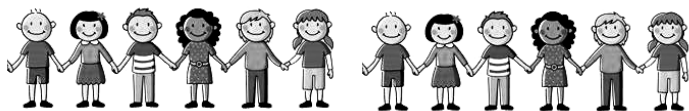
*The Rachel's Circle* needs your help. Be on the lookout  
for an envelope for donations in an upcoming Sunday bulletin.  
This will be used by *The Rachel's Circle* to purchase food.

If you are able to donate, please contribute, and place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

If you prefer to shop for items, please bring in canned goods, *(pop-top lids are preferred)*, or individually packaged items, to church with you any Sunday. Please place them in the basket labeled Blessing Box in the Narthex.  
*(No glass items please.)*

We don't know how many people the Blessing Box serves, but we do know being hunger-free is a blessing.

Thank you from *The Rachel's Circle.*



## Outreach Benevolence for March:

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
(now known as) . . . Global Refuge!

Restoring a sense of home for people and families who've had to leave theirs . . .



For more information or to donate,  
please visit: [GlobalRefuge.org](http://GlobalRefuge.org)



Remember, When you go  
to bed on March 9th . . .  
Move your clocks ahead  
1 hour!

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ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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EASTON PA 18042-4539  
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