

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

a reconciling in Christ congregation

The Eagle

July 2024

New Series Volume MMXXIV – No. 7, 2024

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

330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

610-258-6119

Admin@stjohnseaston.org
stjohnseaston.org

From the Pastor—July 2024

George Washington was famous for a lot of things. He famously refused to lie, so the story goes, when confronted by his father over a fallen cherry tree. He's famous for his remarkable marriage to the remarkable Martha.



He's famous for his wintry crossing of the Delaware in America's longshot War of Independence. But for all his many accomplishments, George Washington is most famous for being our First President, because when you're a first anything, that's a very big deal.

When America's founders were first envisioning the presidency, some imagined a king-like office, or more appropriately, a king-light office. Short of sporting a crown and scepter, the president, some thought, should bear some resemblance to the King of England. It was Alexander Hamilton (I think) who suggested that the president ought to be addressed as "Your Excellency." Washington, though, would have none of it. He opted, instead, to be referred to as simply "Mr. President." In putting down the infamous Whiskey Rebellion, Washington exercised plenty of presidential muscle (including riding at the head of an army formed to suppress the tax rebels), but stopped well short of tyranny in enforcing federal law. But most famously, in my humble opinion, at the end of his second term, Washington did not cling to the presidency, but stepped aside, clearing the way for the eventual election of John Adams and, most importantly, establishing the hallmark of American democracy, the peaceful transfer of power.

I like to think of St. Paul as Christianity's First Pastor. While Paul most consistently referred to himself as an apostle or servant of Christ, he certainly did a lot of pastoring in that first generation of Christian existence. The word pastor comes from the Latin translation of the Creek word for shepherd, and much of Paul's ministry was devoted to keeping his sheep from wandering away from the good news of God in Christ. As 21st-century Christians, we have a foundation of 21 centuries of Christian tradition, but our first-century forebears had no such advantage.

The first Christian communities were operating without the creeds and constitutions we take for granted. They had no service books with liturgies for celebrating the sacraments.

While there were oral traditions of Jesus' teaching and preaching, these first Christians did not have the written words of the New Testament. The first Gospel (likely Mark's) would not begin to circulate until nearly a decade after Paul's death. Consequently, Paul's letters abound with many of the questions and quarrels of believers who were trying to figure out what it means to be the Body of Christ.

Some of the controversies Paul addressed in his letters might strike us as peculiar. These days we don't much quibble over whether or not it is permissible to eat meat sacrificed to idols. On the other hand, Paul also took on issues still relevant to us today, such as: sexual ethics, marriage-divorce-and-remarriage, and church discipline. But in guiding his fellow believers in all these various debates, Paul consistently and persistently goes back to the Cross of Christ. Every question (or accusation!) thrown at Paul was seen through and addressed in the light of what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And herein lies the fundamental template for pastoral leadership.

In this last generation, as the church's challenges have grown, so have the pastor's roles and responsibilities. Besides teacher, preacher, presider, and caregiver, the church often calls the pastor to other tasks, such as administrator, fundraiser, conflict manager, visionary, and long-range planner. But going back to Paul, the pastor's first responsibility in every issue, question, or problem that the church faces or might face is to bring the Gospel to bear. Whatever the concern or dispute, the pastor's duty is to raise the question: How do we show forth the grace and goodness showered on us in the sacrifice of Christ Jesus?

Thank you, First Pastor Paul!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mike



July's Benevolence Spotlight

"What's new at *Bloom* . . ."

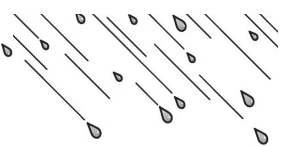
- * *Bloom* is a faith-based non-profit organization with the mission of providing sanctuary and continuum care to survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- * *Bloom* offers emergency response, a two-year residential program, pregnant survivor services, an independent living program and employment assistance.
- * *Bloom* works with the Department of Homeland Security, FBI and local law enforcement on sting operations and investigations.
- * *Bloom* recently announced "*Bloom on the Inside*", an in-jail program working with women in the Lehigh Valley Jail incarcerated for sex trafficking and providing a safe place and time to heal when they are released.
- * *Bloom* also expanded their outreach program and have launched **B.R.A.C.E.** (Be Ready, Alert, Courageous, Educated). This is an educational program for youth and young adults. The program's goal is to raise awareness, teach safety skills, reduce abduction and trafficking risk.

How you can help:

- * Support *Bloom* with your donations to:
Bloom Headquarters,
1425 Mountain Drive North, Bethlehem PA 18015
(Or, with a donation in the offering plate noted for "*Bloom*")
- * Visit *Bloom's Amazon Wish List* for a list of items they need
 - * Support "*My Sister's Closet*"
This boutique is located at:
3650 Nazareth Pike, Suite 13, Bethlehem PA 18020
- * Volunteer. Call their office at 610-866-5755 for more information or visit their website for more information:
www.bloomforwomen.org

* PRAY

Thank you. The Outreach Committee



**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 \$ _____ DDG0060

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

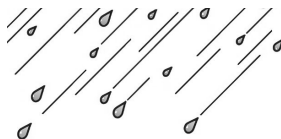
Email address _____

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.



Lutheran Disaster Response



July ~ 9:30 am Worship

Altar Guild: Judi Kalapay / Linda Kalapay
Counters: Cindy & Bob Black

July 7

Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: Mark 6:1-13
Reader: Wayne Docker
Worship Assistant: Jim Heck
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Cindy & Bob Black
Camera Team: Brad Thomas

July 14

Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: Mark 6:14-29
Reader: Charles Lewis
Worship Assistant: Joyce Petty
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Cindy & Bob Black
Camera Team: Bill Iacovone

July 21

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost


Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Reader: Larry Transue
Worship Assistant: Steve Moyer
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Cindy & Bob Black
Camera Team: Brad Thomas

July 28

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green
Reading: John 6:1-21
Reader: John Fritchman
Worship Assistant: Chris Orem
Comm. Asst. /Usher: Cindy & Bob Black
Camera Team: David Faulkner

The Church Office will be closed—
 Thursday, July 4th for the Holiday



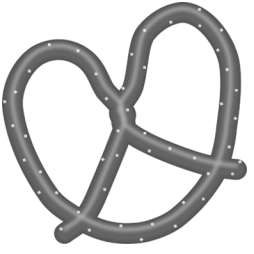
Summer is here, and with vacations
 the church office may be left
 unattended from time to time.

Please call ahead.
 Phone messages and e-mails will be
 checked regularly.

summer
 worship time -
 JULY & AUGUST



Need a ride to church? Call the church office!




ATTENTION PLEASE:

**AS A COURTESY TO OTHERS,
 AND THE STAFF AT ST. JOHN'S . . .**

**WE ASK, PLEASE . . . NO FOOD OR
 DRINKS IN THE SANCTUARY.**

**ALSO, PLEASE, SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES OUT
 OF RESPECT FOR THOSE ATTENDING WORSHIP
 AROUND US.**

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
1 Summer Worship Begins @ 9:30 am	2	3 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 11:00 am	4 Council Meeting—D
7 Following Worship: Finance Heritage Day	8 Council Meeting—Chapel 7:00 pm VBS @ United Lutheran Fellowship, 6-8:30	9 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 11:00 am	10 Prayer - Hos Re 11:0
14	15	16 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 11:00 am	17
21 Following Worship: Property Outreach	22	23 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 11:00 am	24 Prayer - Hos Re 11:0
28 Following Worship: Rachel's Circle Gallery Opening 12:00 pm	29 	30 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 11:00 am	31

Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
l Reports Due	4 Office Closed	5 	6
r Group Hospitality Room 10:00 am	11	12	13
pm	→		
	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
r Group Hospitality Room 10:00 am	25	26 Newsletter Folding 9:30 am	27
		Al-Anon Wednesdays 10:00 am Fellowship Hall	NA Thursdays 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall

From the St. John's Gallery . . .



SUMMER SHOW:


"THE SEAS, THE SHORES AND IT'S COMMUNITY"

June 23rd thru Sept 15th

Come visit

Sunday's 12:00—3:00 pm





Let us congratulate—Katie Hunsicker, daughter of June and Bill Smith who recently graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with her Masters in Science.

July Fellowship Hour Sponsor:

Property Committee

-Committees are responsible for providing, setting up and cleaning up at the end of fellowship.

Committee members are encouraged to ask others in the congregation to contribute.



COMFORT BACKPACKS

The Rachel Circle is partnering with ProJeCt of Easton in helping the homeless.

In the past, The Rachel Circle stored items for the homeless, but waited for someone to come to St. John's asking for those personal items, food, etc. Now, ProJeCt will distribute these items to the homeless, when they go to their food bank. We no longer need to wait for someone to come to our church and we will be able to reach more homeless through ProJeCt.



ProJeCt will distribute filled backpacks – they will provide the food and The Rachel Circle will provide the backpacks and personal items. For this, we are asking for your help.

The Rachel Circle is looking for donations of backpacks (new or gently used), deodorant, soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, combs, socks, baby wipes and wash clothes. These items can be placed in the Narthex in the Blessing Box bin. This will be an on-going collection, so you can bring in your donation at any time.

We are still collecting food for the Blessing Box as there is always a need to bless someone with a meal, especially when the Food Bank is not open.

Your donations are always greatly appreciated and benefit more people than we realize.

Thank you from The Rachel Circle and ProJeCt

St. John's Prayer List:

Chuck, Deanna, Joe, Kara, Christine, Donald, Janice, Steve, Charles, Maria, Matt, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Bob, Rita, Donald, Terry, Jim, Shirley, Jeff, Bill, Charlie, Caitlin, Mike, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the St. John's Call Committee

SCUBA VBS

July 8 - 12

Evenings 6 - 8:30 PM at
United Fellowship Lutheran Church,
2115 Washington Blvd., Easton, PA

"SCUBA - Diving into Friendship with God!" Students will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God!

VBS this year will be July 8 - 12 starting at 6:00 pm every evening. Parents are encouraged to stay for the Opening Rally and return at 8:10 for the Closing Rally. We'll end each night at 8:30 pm.

VBS is open and FREE to all youth in our community and is geared to kids ages 3 through completed 5th grade.

Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/UFLC-VBS>

Call 610-258-0081 for more information.



Puzzle!

THE WATER OF LIFE

A cold drink helps us beat the summer heat. Complete this puzzle for a reminder of what Jesus offers to quench our thirst.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

" 6+6 7-2 9+11 23-3 12-4 8-3 9+6 18-4 1+4 18+5 10-2 10+5
13-4 12+7 18+2 1+7 10-1 20-2 17+2 8+12 22+3 1+2 11+4 15-2 2+3;
0+1 7+7 9-5 5+7 8-3 7+13 5+15 11-3 4+1 12+3 5+9 16-11
12+11 10-2 6+9 10+13 2+7 12+7 11-3 1+4 24-5 11+9 4-3 6+5 11-6
4+16 5+3 14-9 9-3 9+9 2+3 9-4 15-8 5+4 7-1 18+2
9+6 10-4 27-7 4+4 8-3 18+5 8-7 6+14 4+1 13+5
6+9 14-8 7+5 18-9 2+4 2+3"

Revelation 22:17, NIV

Answer: "Let the one who is thirsty come, and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."
Revelation 22:17, NIV



Save the Date ... Church Picnic
August 25th
Penn Pump Park

*Be on the look out for a sign-up sheet
in the narthex to bring a
side dish or dessert to share.

July Birthdays

- 7/1 — DENISE CHERRY
- 7/1 — KAREN RUGGLES
- 7/6 — CHARLES HANSON
- 7/6 — PAUL MOSER
- 7/9 — CLAIRE HAMMERSTONE
- 7/9 — ARLENE HEIMBACH
- 7/9 — JUDI KALAPAY
- 7/10 — SHIRLEY COLLINS
- 7/10 — MAGGIE WEBER
- 7/13 — CHARLES CORTRIGHT
- 7/17 — DAVID FAULKNER
- 7/17 — JOYCE PETTY
- 7/22 — DIANE COKER
- 7/23 — ALISON FINK
- 7/23 — DEBORAH HYMAN
- 7/24 — ADDISON CRESSMAN

- 7/25 — ALEXA KUTCH
- 7/28 — JASMINE DENNIS
- 7/28 — DONNA HOPPEY
- 7/29 — JUDY KEEN
- 7/30 — KELLY DEEMER

July Anniversaries

- 7/6 — SYLVIA & CHARLES OREM
- 7/18 — CINDY & BOB BLACK

Celebrate!





Heritage Day

—July 7, 2024

At noon on July 8, 1776, Easton was one of only three places where the Declaration of

Independence was first

read publicly. Ever since that monumental event, the city of Easton has embraced the principles of freedom as a city where pioneering thoughts and diverse beliefs are welcome.

Join us as we celebrate both the original spirit of independence and its enduring legacy. Heritage Day showcases local history and heritage and St. John's will participate with tours of our Sanctuary and Grave Cellar.

***Volunteers are needed to
make this a success!***

Sign Up Today !!

(sheets located in the Narthex, or call the church office.)

**Let's show the community
St. John's is the place to be !!!**

**ST. JOHN'S WILL ALSO BE OPENING THE PARKING LOT FOR
"PARKING AT A FEE" THIS DAY.**

**VOLUNTEERS WILL ALSO BE NEEDED TO SERVE AS
PARKING ATTENDANTS.**



ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 FERRY STREET

EASTON PA 18042-4539

610-258-6119

(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED)

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