

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a reconciling in Christ congregation*

## The Eagle

June 2024

*New Series Volume* MMXXIV – No. 6, 2024

**Interim Pastor: The Reverend Mike Button**

**Director of Music: Jessica Madow**

330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

610-258-6119

[Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)

[stjohnseaston.org](http://stjohnseaston.org)

### *From the Pastor, June—2024*

Martin Marty is a national treasure. He began his career as a Lutheran pastor, and in 1963 joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, mostly teaching American church history, mostly in the Divinity School. He would write a book and edit a book each year of his 35-year career at Chicago, while also advising a total of 130 graduate students during his tenure. Altogether, he's authored 60 books and co-authored, edited, or contributed to hundreds more, including a massive five-volume series on fundamentalism. According to his website, his name appears on 5,000 articles. He's served as president of the American Academy of Religion, the American Society of Church History, and the American Catholic Historical Association. And at age 96, Martin Marty is still going strong, writing columns, podcasting, and being a faithful ELCA member. Because of his vast knowledge of the American church, he's become more than just another distinguished academic. He's a trusted voice, whose insights have shaped leaders and their leadership for decades.

I first heard Dr. Marty speak at Tulane University when I was an intern (vicar) at Grace Lutheran Church in New Orleans. That was a while ago (no kidding, huh!), and I wish I could remember the theme of his lecture, but during the question-and-answer period that followed, he said something that's stuck with me all these years. He was asked where he saw the American church heading (bear in mind, this was 40+ years ago.) Dr. Marty answered that he saw the church transitioning from a church of convention to a church of intention.

A conventional church, he explained, is a church driven by social norms. For most of America's history, church was just what you did on Sunday mornings. It was part and parcel of being a good citizen or a moral person. If you didn't go to church, people might talk about you, maybe think that you were an atheist or possibly a communist. If you aspired to public office, people would want to know what church, or possibly, what synagogue, you belonged to, because in the America of the conventional church, you were either a Catholic, a Protestant, or a Jew. If you weren't any one of those three, you were – God help you! -- weird.

If the mortal sin of the conventional church is weirdness, the church of intention is willing to risk a little weirdness for the sake of faithfulness.

People attend the intentional church not just because that's what they or their parents or grandparents have always done; rather, they show up because they see their participation in the faith community as part of following Jesus. And if in the course of following Jesus, the church of intention challenges social norms contrary to the spirit of the gospel – like racism or sexism – that's okay. In fact, that's to be expected of the intentional church, even if there's societal pushback. In the intentional church, it's taken for granted that discipleship comes with a cost (see Mark 8:34).

Many of the social factors that supported and sustained the conventional church have fallen away, or at least, are in rapid decline. If, once upon a time in America, it was considered weird not to attend Sunday service, in many parts of America today people might think you weird for attending church. On my Sunday commutes to St. John's, most of the traffic is heading for the soccer fields and ballparks, not to Sunday worship. Not so long ago, the ministry was considered a highly respected profession, but after a decades-long string of highly publicized clergy scandals, all pastors – fair or unfair – have been painted with a very broad brush.

In seminary, my favorite church history professor was Dr. Carl Volz, now of sacred memory. He didn't write as many books or articles as Martin Marty, but he had an encyclopedic knowledge of the church's history, especially that of the early church. In one of his books, Dr. Volz took on a huge question: How did the early church survive? After all, these Christians stuck out like a sore thumb from the rest of pagan society. Talk about weird! They didn't take part in any of the local temple rites or celebrations. They didn't offer sacrifice to the emperor. They were routinely charged with bringing bad luck and being bad citizens. If anything bad happened in a city or town – a fire, a plague, a dreadful crime – the Christians were the first to be blamed. They were persecuted locally and eventually imperially. How did they survive, much less thrive? Dr. Volz wrote that Christian survival came down to three things: (1) their commitment to apostolic teaching; (2) their witness in the face of persecution and martyrdom; and (3) their love for and service to the poorest of their communities. Sounds like a church of intention.

*Peace always, Pastor Mike*

## Benevolence for June . . .



**ProJeCt** was founded in 1968 by a unique interfaith coalition of Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic community leaders who believed that our community could be better and that each of us has a responsibility for taking action.

Since 1968, **ProJeCt** has been an advocate for the at-risk population in the Lehigh Valley. It is a nonprofit organization with a mission of building a better community by helping people help themselves.

Education is key to their mission and they offer a system of education support services to help clients break the cycle of poverty.

With support from the community, they are able to continue helping thousands of people and families through their food pantry, emergency assistance, youth development and educational programs.

Donations can be mailed to:

**Project** of Easton  
320 Ferry Street  
Easton, PA 18042

or

Placed in the offering plate marked "**ProJeCt**"

Did you know . . . St. John's also supports **ProJeCt** by providing them with a low cost space to operate their Food Pantry, Administrative Offices, and Early Childhood Education Centers . . .

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE  
WHERE NEEDED MOST**



[ELCA.org/disaster](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

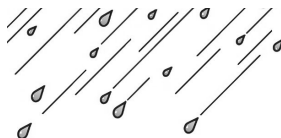
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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



*June ~ 9:30 am Worship*

**Altar Guild:** Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

**Counters:** Mike Thompson / Lois Anne Calloway

*June 2*

*Second Sunday of Pentecost*

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Mark 2:23-3:6  
Reader: Lynn Kutch  
Worship Assistant: Jim Heck  
Comm. Asst. / Usher: Barbara Horinko / Volunteer  
Camera Team: David Faulkner

*June 9*

*Third Sunday of Pentecost*

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Mark 3:20-35  
Reader: Monica Weiss-Nolen  
Worship Assistant: Joyce Petty  
Comm. Asst. / Usher: Barbara Horinko / Volunteer  
Camera Team: Bill Iacovone

*June 16*

*Fourth Sunday of Pentecost*

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Mark 4:26-34  
Reader: Cindy Black  
Worship Assistant: Steve Moyer  
Comm. Asst. / Usher: Barbara Horinko / Volunteer  
Camera Team: Brad Thomas



June 23 Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Mark 4:35-41  
Reader: Mike Thompson  
Worship Assistant: Chris Orem  
Comm. Asst. / Usher: Barbara Horinko / Volunteer  
Camera Team: David Faulkner

June 30 Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green  
Reading: Mark 5:21-43  
Reader: Larry Transue  
Worship Assistant: Jim Heck  
Comm. Asst. / Usher: Barbara Horinko / Volunteer  
Camera Team: Brad Thomas



June, July, & August  
~  
Worship times will  
change to 9:30 am

*Please Note: With the Summer Months underway, and vacations scheduled, the Church Office may be intermittently unattended. Please call ahead to make sure someone is available to help you!*

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	W
Summer Worship Begins @ 9:30 am	Al-Anon Wednesdays 10:00 am Fellowship Hall	NA Thursdays 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall	
2 Following Worship: Finance Spiritual Life Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm	3	4 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	5 Counci D
9 Following Worship: Membership	10 Council Meeting—Chapel	11 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	12 Praye - Hos Re 11:0
16 Following Worship: Property Outreach	17	18 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	19
23 Following Worship: Rachel's Circle Gallery Opening 12:00 pm 30	24 Newsletter Folding  *Please note change for June.	25 Bible Study— Hospitality Room 10:00 am	26 Praye - Hos Re 11:0

e 2024

Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1
l Reports Due	6	7	8
r Group pitality oom 00 am	13	14 Newsletter Deadline	15
	20	21	22
r Group pitality oom 00 am	27	28	29 

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

A CALL TO ARTISTS FOR OUR  
SUMMER SHOW:

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

June 23rd thru Sept 15th

***Works of fine art in any medium,  
including: photography, crafts and  
visual articulation***

Registration Deadline Friday June 21st

Applications and further  
Information available at:

**[stjohnseaston.org/ministries/gallery](http://stjohnseaston.org/ministries/gallery)**



**Save the Date**

August 25, 2024

10:30 am

More details to come !

## 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



## Update from the Quilters:

After many weeks of hard work, the Quilters of St. John's would like to share the fruits of their most recent labor of love with the congregation. A small, but very productive group of volunteers, our quilters will have 11 quilts on display in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 2nd before they get packed up for shipment to Poland.

Why Poland? Since millions of refugees have fled into Poland from Ukraine in response to the ongoing war, two women started a charity they call, "Wrap Ukraine with Quilts." Providing donated quilts to these refugees is their primary goal, however they have also started a workshop in Poland to teach sewing and quilting skills to interested Ukrainian refugee women. Making finished quilts that the refugees can eventually sell for income is one addition goal of this unique and desperately needed charity.

Please join us on Sunday, June 2nd to observe and celebrate, first-hand, the talent, blessings and generous gifts that our St. John's quilters are offering to an exceptional charity a half-a-world away! And finally, the St. John's quilters would, of course, like to extend their heart-felt thanks to the congregation for your continued support of our special ministry.

With many thanks, Loretta Heck



*May today hold  
the promise of many  
great tomorrows !*

*St. John's would like to recognize  
and congratulate those who have graduated  
from High School, College, any Continuing  
Studies, or Schooling.*

*Please contact the church office with the Name,  
Degree & School. – Admin@stjohnseaston.org*

## June Fellowship Hour Sponsor:

**Church Council**

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

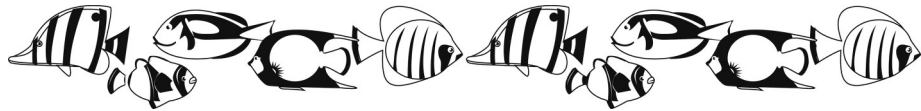


Artist reception 6/23/24—Council not responsible this day.



**Thank you to all who donated  
to the Outreach Committee's  
May Pet Donations for the  
"Center for Animal Health &  
Welfare"**

The Youth of St. John's  
are invited to join  
"United Lutheran Fellowship"



This year's theme is "Scuba!"  
More information coming soon!

Save the dates:  
July 8-12, 2024



To all who helped with  
Sunday School / Adult  
Forum this year...

Enjoy your Summer!  
See you in September!!



TELL ALL YOUR KIDS,  
GRANDKIDS, NIECES &  
NEPHEWS TO  
SAVE THE DATE!  
NEW VOLUNTEERS AND  
IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOME.

Activity :  
**FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL**

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words.  
Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.

**Coordinates**

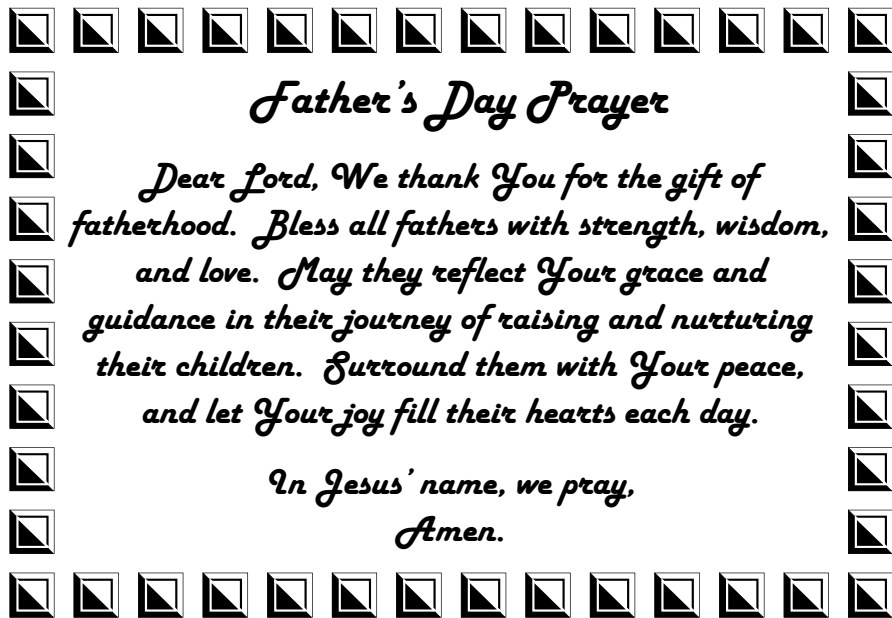
T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	A	T	H	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

"For my Father's will is that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

and I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:40, NIV



## *Father's Day Prayer*

*Dear Lord, We thank You for the gift of fatherhood. Bless all fathers with strength, wisdom, and love. May they reflect Your grace and guidance in their journey of raising and nurturing their children. Surround them with Your peace, and let Your joy fill their hearts each day.*

*In Jesus' name, we pray,  
Amen.*

## **Birthdays**

6/1—Janel Ruggles

6/2—Sydney Hammerstone

6/4—Connie Garr

6/6—John Border

6/8—Nancy Ducey

6/10—Carolyn Moyer

6/10—Roger Ruggles

6/18—Laura Genn

6/19—Judith Fenical

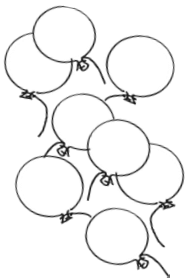
6/22—Stephen Remel

6/26—Lois Anne Calloway

6/26—Lorenzo Crozier

6/27—Beverly Lewis

6/28—Victoria Petty



HOORAY  
HOORAY  
- OH -  
WHAT A DAY!

## **Anniversaries**

6/7—Rob & Darlene Smith

6/24—Peggy & Tony Pitt

6/26—Carolyn & Steve Moyer

6/28—Christine & Jeffery Skinner

6/29—Megan & Ian Heck

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