

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net

Website: <http://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

Office Phone: 610.682.6064

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

*Lent is an occasion for us to journey with Christ
... into tomorrow.*



*For you never walk with Christ long
but what the dawn breaks,
the sun shines and hope breaks through.*

– C. Neil Straight

THE MISSION OF
NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

*We are a group of people who
gather together in friendship and love
to worship God, to spread God's Word,
and to care for God's people.*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I write this on March 18th, I am reminded how changeable our weather is. Even before the middle of the month, someone had the nerve to announce in the newspaper that winter was over. Done. Gone. Last Friday, when the sun was out and it was in the 70's, I couldn't help myself. I was outdoors without a jacket, raking up sticks, and even *perspiring*. It was like a summer's day. Everyone I saw was smiling. Then the wind blew in, the thunder rolled, rain poured, the temperature dropped below freezing again, and we were reminded that while we may want to be done with winter, winter may not be quite done with us. Even as the beginning of April approaches, it's too early to put away the winter coats, gloves, and maybe even the shovels.

We are also in the middle of a very changeable church season. It is really tempting to put something about Easter on the front of this newsletter. After all, as of March 20th it will officially be spring, we associate spring flowers with Easter, and the stores are promoting their Easter items. However, it is also true we are not even half way through Lent, so let's not rush that season.

How often we humans want to skip getting deeply involved, skip the details, skip the work, avoid the personal and the tough stuff. Sometimes, when we're part way through a mystery, we are tempted to skip to the end to see "who done it" rather than experience the tension and challenges of how the characters become more complex or of trying to piece together the hidden clues. We've gotten used to TV shows or movies that wrap things up in one or two hours, or, at most, in a short series. Recently, however, Rick and I got involved with a Netflix series that has 64 episodes. 64! We're only on number 27! The plot is complex but intriguing. Issues introduced in one episode don't get addressed again until several episodes later, while other complications and characters are added in between, making it all very complex, yet extremely life-like. Even when we feel like we are left hanging at the end of one episode, we know we can't just watch the next to find out how things get resolved. We have to hang in for the long run.

That's what it is like with real life. Life isn't just the joys of births, achievements, good times, and weddings. Life also includes the times in-between, the times when we do a lot of growing and maturing, the times when the real meaning and joy of life is developed, tested, and refined. Times that might also involve pain or loss. Only by having experienced the in-between times, are we able to experience the real joy of the highs of life.

Lent is one of those in-between times when we consider: "What really matters in life?" "Who is this Jesus?", "What was he *really* about?" "What was so attractive about him that so many followed him?" "What about him upset so many so much that they rejected and killed him?" "Where was God in all of this?" "Why does Jesus matter?" "What does he have to do with my life?" "What am I looking for?" "Where is God in our world, in my life?" Each year as we allow God's Spirit to guide us to more fully enter God's story and our own journey, as we allow God to help us ask and explore the deeper questions, we find that when Easter finally arrives, it has additional, often unexpected meanings, surprises and joy.

Just as the discovery of snowdrops, crocus, winter aconite and pansies brings a smile to our faces and hope to our hearts, may we in the coming weeks discover the many ways God blesses and surprises us, as we journey from winter to spring, through Lent to Easter.

Pastor Ruth



NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, March 11:

- Progress is being made regarding the doorbell. Randy Schlegel will be installing two door chimes. One will be installed in the office first and then it will be determined where to put the other one.
- Denny Beshore reviewed the 2018 church audit results with council members.
- Pastor Ruth and a few council members will be Developing a Gifts Policy, which will consist of guidelines on how to handle gifts donated to the church.

APRIL SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of a Flower sponsor for April 14, Bulletin sponsors for April 14 and 21, an Altar Guild volunteer, a Children's Bulletin sponsor, Communion Bread sponsors and Communion Set-up volunteers for April 14 and 21. Thank you!

APRIL GREETERS SIGN-UP SHEET

Greeters are needed for April 3 (midweek Lenten service), 14 and 21. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help. Thank you!

A CLEAN SEAT

You've heard of a "clean sweep"? As part of our ongoing care for our property, on **Saturday, April 6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.** our scout troop will be cleaning the seats on our stacking chairs, some of which have become stained over the years. Anyone willing to help while also getting to know our scouts better is invited to come. Supplies will be provided.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

The sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful flowers for Easter on Sunday, April 21. If you would like to order any flowers, an order form was included in your March newsletter or extra forms can be found on the greeter's table in the narthex. Please return your order form with payment to the church office by **Sunday, April 7**. Thank you!



FAITH FORMATION – April 14

Join us as we learn about how the Israelites wandered through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. We'll engage in another sand art project and maybe even bake something.

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the May 2019 newsletter is **Sunday, April 21**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE SALE

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church will be holding a shoo-fly pie bake sale **April 29, 30, and May 1**. If you would like to order any pies, please contact the church office. Pies are \$6.00 each. Yum!

2019 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Congratulations to our elected council members and officers: Cheryl Wiltrout, President; Gladys Kline, Vice President; Amy Hahn, Secretary; Betty Eshbach; Josh Keck; Dan Pauley; Ty Rissmiller; Sue Schlenker; Elaine Seip; and Dawn Wengert;

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BANNERS GONE?

As part of our Lenten observance we have temporarily removed several banners from our worship space. Will something new emerge on Easter? What about the weeks that follow? Come and see!

THE OLCHOKI CHALLENGE

We only need \$743 to finish paying for the stove for Olchoki Elementary School in Arusha, Tanzania. The school has 1500 children who, without this basic stove, would not have a meal during the school day.

At its March 17 meeting, Stewardship Committee accepted a donor's challenge to match all funds, up to \$372, that are received by **August 1**. This means that the rest of us only need to collect half of what is needed. Let's fulfill Stewardship Committee's goal of making 2018-2019 the year of the stove.

Contributions can be made via offering envelopes, special envelopes available on the greeter's table, or regular envelopes simply marked "Olchoki Stove."

BIBLE STUDY WITH FRIENDS

Please let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join a Thursday morning Bible Study. We'll pick the focus and plan how often we will get together at our first meeting. Date to be announced shortly.

A LITTLE LIBRARY: CHECK IT OUT

The books we received as part of our recent book fair are now available in a bookshelf in the overflow area. If you'd like to borrow one, just sign it out. If you find you'd like to buy one, order forms are available.

FIVE MORE QUILTS TAKEN TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF WAREHOUSE

Thanks to Marlane Druckenmiller for taking another 5 quilts to the New Windsor warehouse which processes the donations for Lutheran World Relief. While the warehouse wasn't completely bare, she was told the quilts would be sent out very shortly due to the recent disaster in Alabama, the flooding in the Midwest and other disasters around the world.

APRIL IS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH!

This year April 12 is the special day designated to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation. You can help by wearing blue and green that day. You can also help by encouraging family and friends of all ages to designate themselves as a donor on their driver's licenses and letting their next of kin know they have done so.



Did you know the 24th annual Donor Dash 10K Run, 5K Run and 3K walk will take place at the Philadelphia Art Museum on Sunday, April 14? For more information contact cduran@donors1.org.

SYNOD MINISTRY FAIR – May 4

Visit the Synod's Resource Center at The Lutheran Center, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown, on **Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Learn about ministries of the Northeastern PA Synod; share resources offered by synod teams; and attend mini-sessions (like Learning Ministries' Day). There will also be an opportunity to share your congregation's information/ministries at your own sharing table. Lunch will be provided. Sponsored by the Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team. For more information, visit the synod website at www.nepasynod.org/event/ministry-fair.

With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Audrey L. (Sander) Hoffman, who passed away on Saturday, March 16, 2019.

MAY PLAY DAY – Sunday, May 5

Join others from around the synod for the annual May Play Day at Bear Creek Camp, 3601 Bear Creek Blvd., Wilkes-Barre on **Sunday, May 5, from 2:00-7:00 p.m.** What can you expect? Games for all ages. Adventures – rock-climbing wall, boating, hiking, high ropes course and more. Dinner and singing. For senior high youth and their advisors/parents. An information meeting on the 2018 youth gathering and the synod's Lutheran Youth Fellowship organization. The cost is \$4 for children who are 12 years and younger. For everyone else the cost is \$8. Explore the camp – rain or shine – and enjoy a fun day outdoors. For more information and to register, please visit the synod website at www.nepasynod.org/event/may-play-day.



“DON'T WE LOOK PRETTY?”



Some Spring cleaning. Getting the ovens ready for the spring shoo-fly pie bakes. A big thank you to the oven cleaning crew!

COMMUNITY

LENTEN SERVICES



We will again be joining with various churches belonging to the Brandywine Ministerium to celebrate Lent. The theme for this year will be “My Grandfather’s Blessings.” The services begin at **7:00 p.m.** Listed below are the dates and locations. Please note the location change for April 10.

- April 3 New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Preacher: Pastor Mike Combs

- April 10 **St. Peter’s UCC, Topton**
Preacher: Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman

- April 17 St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Mertztown
Preacher: Pastor Paul Schoffstall
(soup/salad meal starting at 6 p.m.)

- April 18 **Maundy Thursday**
Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
Preacher: Pastor Paul Schoffstall

- April 19 **Good Friday**
Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers
Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty

To the Relay for Life Committee, thank you for donating your tent to us. It was very generous of you to think of the scouts. They were very excited when they saw it. One of the scouts said, “Wow! We can all sleep in that.” Thanks again. – *Boy Scout Troop #585*

* * * * *

Dear Congregation of New Jerusalem, we would like to thank you for all of your efforts in helping this holiday season be a brighter one for all of our families! We are grateful for your donation of 17 Christmas gifts and 2 Thanksgiving holiday boxes. We served 894 pantry individuals in 314 households this year, and provided Christmas gifts for 258 local children residing in one of the 3 local school districts; Fleetwood, Brandywine Heights, and Kutztown. From the clients, staff and Board of Friend, Inc. Community Services, we sincerely thank you and wish you a happy and successful 2019!

* * * * *

Dear New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you very much for your generous donation to support our Backpack Buddies program! We currently serve 26 students each week. This donation will certainly help feed these students on weekends! Thanks again, *Ms. Kelly, BHES Principal and Brandywine Backpack Buddies Committee*

* * * * *

Dear Friends at New Jerusalem, we are writing to acknowledge your gift to The Salvation Army of Reading in the amount of \$296.40. What a wonderful gift! Thank you for your generosity on behalf of others in this community. Our work and ministry to families and individuals who are in great need is an ongoing concern to us, not only during the holidays when we’re most visible, but all year long. Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to lift others from the depths of poverty. Without you, we couldn’t help others. You are truly a valued partner! May God richly bless you. – *Yours in service to Christ, Sharon and Ted Tressler, Captains Corps Commanding Officers*

Did You Know?

CALVARY CROSS (GRADED CROSS)

This Latin cross with three steps symbolizes both Jesus’ climb up Calvary’s mountain and the three gifts of faith, hope and love. Those gifts are intrinsically connected to Jesus’ death and resurrection and are ours by sheer grace. “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV).



“Spring is nature's way of saying,
 ‘Let's party!’”

– Robin Williams

NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

LEARN MONEY MANAGEMENT!

Classes start **Tuesday, April 2, at 5:00 p.m.** at Friend, Inc. Community Services, 658 Noble Street, Kutztown and run for 5 weeks. Topics covered include: Budgeting, Bank Accounts, and Credit Scores and Reports. Each participant is paired with a mentor throughout the 5 sessions to help gain understanding of personal financial situations and ways to improve them. Please call Laura Moyer at 610.683.9011 to reserve your seat.

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

On **Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m.** Held at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main Street, Kutztown. Food and drink are available for purchase.

BOY SCOUT TROOP EASTER EGG HUNT

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 13, at 12 noon** when Boy Scout Troop #585 will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 12 and under. Held rain or shine.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FORUMS

The Lutheran Home at Topton will be running Bereavement Support Forums the third Tuesday of each month at **10:00 a.m.** Led by Rev. Dr. Colleen Kristula, Chaplain at the Lutheran Home at Topton, they will be held in Deibert Hall, first floor of D-wing. On **April 16, 2019** – *Letting Go: What to Do with My Loved One's Possessions*. A time for sharing and refreshments will follow each program or presentation. There is no fee to attend, but please register at 610.682.1334. Weather-related cancellations will be recorded at the same number.

COMMUNITY CHOIR REHEARSALS

Calling all singers to join in rehearsals for the Midweek Lenten Service on **Wednesday, April 17**, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 50 Luther Drive, Mertztown. Rehearsals will be on three Thursday evenings, March 28, April 4, and April 11 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 17 from 6:00–6:30 p.m. in the choir loft. The service begins at 7:00 p.m.

COMMON GROUND RECOVERY COMMUNITY

Common Ground is a Christian Ministry and Support community dedicated to supporting individuals and families recovering from addiction, abuse, mental illness, loss, hurts and hangups in life.

It offers programs that educate about addiction and recovery, small groups that provide support, bible studies that deepen faith, and worship experiences that inspire hope and healing.

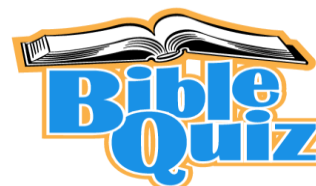
There are three meeting locations:

Atonement Lutheran Church Lundin Hall
5 Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing
610.375.3512

Trinity Lutheran Church auditorium
527 Washington Street, Reading
610.374.4861

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church
1188 East Ben Franklin Highway,
Douglasville 610.451.4966

Pastor Tom Scornavacchi serves this community. His number is 610.375.3512. Further information is available at www.cgrcommunity.org.



After Jesus raises Lazarus from death, what does his family do to thank Jesus?

- A. They host a dinner for him.
- B. Martha serves the meal.
- C. Mary anoints Jesus' feet with an extravagant amount of expensive perfume.
- D. All of the above.



Answer: D (see John 12:1-3).

Kindness, if you show it to others,
will radiate from you like the
warmth of the sun over the hilltops.

– Source Unknown

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

February 28, 2019

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 25,151.80
Thrivent	7,034.20
Checking	5,190.06
Youth	404.87
Fidelity	137,384.71
Cash Reserve	13,119.89
Mission Investment	11,367.51
Local Care	1,613.75
Total	<u>\$ 201,266.79</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **February 28, 2018** \$ 204,837.60

February 2019 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income		
	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,077.08	\$ 4,540.00	\$ (4,537.08)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2019
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

Parking Lot – Funds received to offset expenses
for Driveway/Parking Lot Repaving

\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Project
\$ 25,884.54 Funds Received to offset expenses

*The best and most beautiful things in this
world cannot be seen or even touched.*

They must be felt within the heart.

—Helen Keller



PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Penny Keller, Leon Moyer, Irene Noll, and Joyce Rothermel.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Lucas Beshore, Erma Guinther, Sharon Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, Family and friends of Audrey Hoffman, John Keck, Phillip Litschke, Sheila Long, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Joanne Pauley, and Dale Schwoyer.

Friends of the congregation: Thelma Bright, Bill Collins, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Michelle and Ben Eckert, Kenny Fink, Eric Fox, Becky Graeff, Mamie Guinther, Corinne Hersh, David Jenkins, Angie Kistler, Family and friends of Grace Lantz, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Michael M., Michelle Meck, Mary Merkel, Rodney Muthard, Nicolette Nolte, Kyle Olinger, Jackson Radcliffe, Leticia Weaver, Leah Wiest, and Dennis Wright.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for our nation, our president, congress and judicial system; an end to the fear that keeps us from getting to know our local and international neighbors; peace in the world and between citizens and those who serve them; our military personnel serving around the world; areas enduring drought, storms, flooding, fire and other disasters; migrants and refugees and the countries to which they flee.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Millie Berger, Sandy Burkart, Evelyn Collins Alice Epler, Barbara Feeman, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Steve Haage, Janis Kershner, Lauren Kinney, Anh La., Tonya Petersheim, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Katie S., Rayjeana Schultz, Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Jacqi Wagner, and Rachel Woodhead.

It is good to have an end to journey toward;
but it is the journey that matters, in the end.

— Ursula K. Le Guin



- 2 Richard Sheetz
- 5 Sara Jane Beshore
- 5 Justin Rahn
- 7 Barbara Seyler
- 17 Harold Seyler
- 18 Jayna Howell
- 19 Erma Guinther
- 21 Annabell Keller
- 23 Brooke Adams
- 28 Amy Hahn
- 29 Rebecca Keller
- 29 Daniel Moyer
- 30 Dallas Bennecoff
- 30 Richard Carl



- 9 Jason and Tina Howell (8 years)
- 15 Alan and Sherrie Carl (30 years)
- 24 Randy and Tammy Cleaver (10 years)

If your name or the name of someone you know didn't appear on this list, we apologize and hope you will let us know so we can make the necessary corrections.

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

—St. Augustine

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S 'VERY GOOD' CREATION

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” - Genesis 1:31

Six times while creating the heavens and the earth God pauses and sees that it is “good” (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 26). But when all is completed, God marvels and calls it “very good.”

Today that “very good” creation is under extreme strain from climate change, plastic waste, toxins in our air and water, species extinction and countless other factors. As God-appointed stewards of creation (Genesis 1:28), we have to admit we're failing.

For these reasons, and because April 22 is Earth Day, this month presents the perfect opportunity to stress “Stewardship of Creation.” Here are some ideas:

- Pray. Ask God to show us, lead us and guide us to care for the earth.
- At church, celebrate April 28 as “Earth Sunday” or “Creation Sunday” with special hymns, prayers, classes and scripture.
- Form a congregational “Green Team” to educate, introduce new practices and advocate for better public policies.
- At church and home, establish or step up efforts to recycle all you can and reduce waste.
- Note the plastic in your church and home recycling and waste stream. Discuss the crisis that plastic waste is causing.
- Compost your family's food waste. Discover how composting and recycling can reduce your trash stream.
- Cut down on driving. Walk, bicycle, or use public transportation. Install a bike rack at church.
- Examine your church and home's insulation values. Have a professional tune up the heating and air conditioning systems for efficiency.

What other steps could help you and your congregation prioritize caring for God's creation? It's the only planet we have. As stewards, we must do better to keep it “very good.”

—Rob Blezard

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THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April

	3	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – New Jerusalem Lutheran
	7	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent (P) – Holy Communion
	10	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – St. Peter's UCC, Topton
*	14	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday (P) – Holy Communion ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
	17	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown (soup and salad supper at 6 p.m., service at 7 p.m.)
	18	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday (W) – Holy Communion – Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville
	19	7:00 PM	Good Friday – Hope Lutheran, Bowers
	21	10:00 AM	Easter Sunday (W) – Holy Communion
*	28	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Easter (W)

May

	5	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Easter (W) – Holy Communion
♦	12	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Easter (W) ▪ Mother's Day Breakfast (before worship)
	19	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday of Easter (W) ▪ AED Dedication and Training ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
*	26	10:00 AM	Sixth Sunday of Easter (W)

June

	2	10:00 AM	Seventh Sunday of Easter (W) – Holy Communion
	9	10:00 AM	Day of Pentecost (R) – Holy Communion
♦	16	10:00 AM	The Holy Trinity (W) – Holy Communion ▪ Father's Day Breakfast (before worship)
*	23	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Pentecost (G)
	30	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after Pentecost (G)

FELLOWSHIP DATES:

- (*) Fellowship after worship
(♦) Breakfast before worship



 God so loved the world

Remember God's special gift of Jesus by making this craft.

What you need:

- Large piece of blue paper
- Large bowl
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint (green and red)
- Paintbrush
- Wet wipes
- 3 wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Black marker
- Bible



What you do:

1. On the paper, trace around the bowl. Cut out the circle.
2. Paint your palms green, one at a time, and press them in the circle side by side. (Clean your hands with wet wipes.)
3. Dip a finger in red paint and make a dot on the center of each handprint.
4. Between the handprints, glue two sticks end to end vertically. Glue the third stick horizontally to make a cross.
5. In marker, write the words of John 3:16 around the blue circle.



Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)

Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)

Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)

This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)

Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)

Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)

Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)

While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)

This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)

These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)

These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)

Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linens, silver coins

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
Wednesday, 4/3 Midweek Lenten Service	TBA	TBA	--	--
4/7	Sue Schlenker	Ken Keck	Faye and Larry Dey	Cheryl Wilttrout
4/14	TBA	Gladys Kline	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
4/21	TBA	Cindy Rissmiller	Don and Erma Gajewski	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
4/28	Josh Keck	Dawn Wengert	Phyllis Fenstermacher	Gladys Kline

ALTAR GUILD: *(volunteer needed)*

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: *(sponsor needed)*

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Cheryl Wilttrout

COMMUNION BREAD: 4/7 – Amy Hahn; 4/14 – *(sponsor needed)*; 4/21 – *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION SET-UP: 4/7 – Gladys Kline; 4/14 – *(volunteer needed)*; 4/21 – *(volunteer needed)*

COUNCIL PERSON: Amy Hahn

COST: Flowers - \$35.00; Bulletins - \$7.00; Children's Bulletins - \$5.00; Sanctuary Candle - \$15.00

APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	2 10:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	3 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, New Jerusalem Lutheran	4	5 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	6
7 Fifth Sunday in Lent ▪ Holy Communion	8 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	9 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	10 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, St. Peter's UCC, Topton	11	12 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	13 12:00pm-Boy Scout Troop #585 Easter Egg Hunt
14 Passion/Palm Sunday ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship	15 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	16 10:00am-Bereavement Support Forum, Topton Lutheran Home 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	17 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 6:00pm-Soup/Salad Meal, St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown	18 7:00pm-Maundy Thursday, Christ Mertz, Dryville ▪ Holy Communion	19 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Good Friday, Hope Lutheran, Bowers	20
21 Easter Day/Resurrection of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	23 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	24 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	25	26 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Pastor Ruth on vacation until May 10	27
28 Second Sunday after Easter ▪ Fellowship after worship	29 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. SHOO-FLY BAKE -----▶	30 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal -----▶	MAY 1 -----▶			

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2019
Freed in Christ for a New Day
Saturday, June 1st, 8:30am-4:30pm
Genetti Ballrooms Inn and Suites, Hazleton

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! - Psalm 118:24

God said, "Let there be light"... God saw that the light was good... and God called the light, Day. - Genesis 1:1-5

Jesus answered... "I am the light of the world." - John 9:5



For 2019 our Synod Assembly is a one-day event – **and what a difference a day can make!** All are welcome and all congregations are called and empowered to send two voting members and any number of visitors, as together we do God's work: sharing life, love, faith and hope for the new days ahead, as the people of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

This year we celebrate our past and look to our future, as we strive in this living present and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ – whose Good News has freed us to make this day and each day a new opportunity to give thanks, to worship, to pray, to dialogue, and to seek the good of our neighbors – all by the power of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of our great God, all because of what Christ has done for us.

We gather in a new place: Genetti Ballrooms Inn and Suites in Hazleton. Our co-workers in Christ in the Coal Region and the Pocono Mountains look forward to being our hosts. A one-day event means costs can be a bit lower this year. Registration fees for voting members are only \$100, while visitors this year will pay \$20, which covers the cost of our special luncheon celebration in honor of the 50th anniversary of the chartering of our Synod.

We will also have another way to save costs and paper, while keeping us all up-to-date, with a customized "Guidebook App" for Assembly 2019. With just a simple, secure download to your smart phone or tablet, you'll have instant access to all the documents and information needed, as well as vital and helpful announcements and guidance. The App is free and available to anyone, whether or not you can attend the Assembly. More information will be given in next month's *Synod News*, and at your upcoming Mission District Assemblies.

A registration packet will be mailed to all rostered leaders and information will be on our synod's website at www.godslove.org.

God promises to shine on us the liberating light of Christ,
 to make us alive,
 to make this moment like a new morning,
 and to send us out in joy, peace and power.

Join us in June as we are

FREED IN CHRIST FOR A NEW DAY!

Anniversaries of Ordination

15 YEARS

Dana D Heckman-Beil
Jean L Huber
Katie E Lyon
Maritza Torres Dolich
Michael L Reist
Anthony P Pagotto
Virginia Anne Goodwin

25 YEARS

Elizabeth C Langensiepen
Eugene C Zaiser
Jeffrey G Bohan
Louise E Williams
Deborah Matern Graf
Diana J Hill

40 YEARS

Samuel R Zeiser
Christian P Matthy
D Michael Bennethum
Donald J Schwartz
Edith B Roberts
John R Kuschel
Richard H Elliott
Roy H Koehler Jr
Sherrie L Sneed
Thomas F Irwin Jr

50 YEARS

Kenneth C Feinour Jr

55 YEARS

Arthur L Hahn Jr
Donald P Beck
Harry J Goos
James C Papada
John J Deisinger
Thomas H Reinsel
Thomas J Keener

60 YEARS

C David Godshall
Dale E Sandstrom
Elton P Richards
Paul J Hoh

65 YEARS

Robert F Sauers

70 Years

James B Miller
John M Aurand

St. Luke, Allentown Muhlenberg College Partnership



ELL students - Nely is third from the left

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located in center city, Allentown hosts an English Language Learning (ELL) program. Trott Nely Montana, a senior at Muhlenberg, coordinates and teaches in the program. Nely majors in Media & Communications, and minors in both Africana Studies, and Documentary Storymaking. He is a member of a number of professional and student organizations including serving as a tutor, Emerging Leaders, Track & Field, Tour Guide, Adult ELL Teacher & Coordinator. When he is not participating in extracurriculars or at school, Nely likes to draw. Plus, he enjoys playing basketball with friends or personally training peers at Muhlenberg.

Nely took over the position of the program from Jose Flores, who was part of Muhlenberg graduating class of 2016. After observing one class with Jose, Nely recognized the significance of the program. He could understand and relate to the ELL students, because he too had taken courses to learn English. In addition to supporting learning and developing better English skills among local residents, the program offers Nely the opportunity to connect and form lasting relationships with some of the locals in Allentown and the church community.

After graduating college, Nely plans to continue school in a MFA and/or PhD program in film and hopes to become a professor. He also is interested in the external and internal factors that hinder low income, high achieving students from attaining a profitable education. Nely understands the trials of being the first member of a family to go to college.; and he wants to provide low income, high achieving students with exposure to numerous resources, and access that would further their education.

