

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

E-MAIL: [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net)

WEBSITE: <https://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

(Normally Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon, but during the current times, please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)



Artwork from *Illustrated Ministries* and colored by Virginia Guinther

## 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 Friends,

As I work on this in mid-March, I am struggling to get a theme, knowing that you will receive this, hopefully, before the first of April and we will be in the midst of the solemn observances of Holy Week. Since we will be thinking a lot about suffering and death, should we dare to put a butterfly, the symbol of the resurrection, on the cover? Wouldn't that be rushing things? And yet, if it were not for the resurrection, we would not be observing and remembering the events of Holy Week. Without Easter the memories of a man condemned and executed as a criminal would have faded from our collective memory.

The question posed to the women who came to the tomb on Easter morning, who came to do the last kind deed they could for their beloved friend – the question posed to them by the angels was, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” If you look closely at the cover, you will discover these words.

Looking for the living among the dead. Aren't many of us doing that these days? Aren't many of us searching for signs of life among the stubble and dead leaves? Are you, like me, looking for crocus and the shoots of daffodil and tulip that might be poking up? After a year that has felt like it has been spent in a tomb, aren't all of us looking for signs of life? Aren't we scouring the news, looking for another small step toward getting people vaccinated, schools back in session, an easing of restrictions on visiting relatives, etc.?

Why do we look for the living, for signs of life, among the dead? It's simple. God has promised that

[g]oodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death;

that

victory is ours, victory is ours, through him who loves us.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours, through him who loves us.

*From an African Prayer Book, Desmond Tutu*

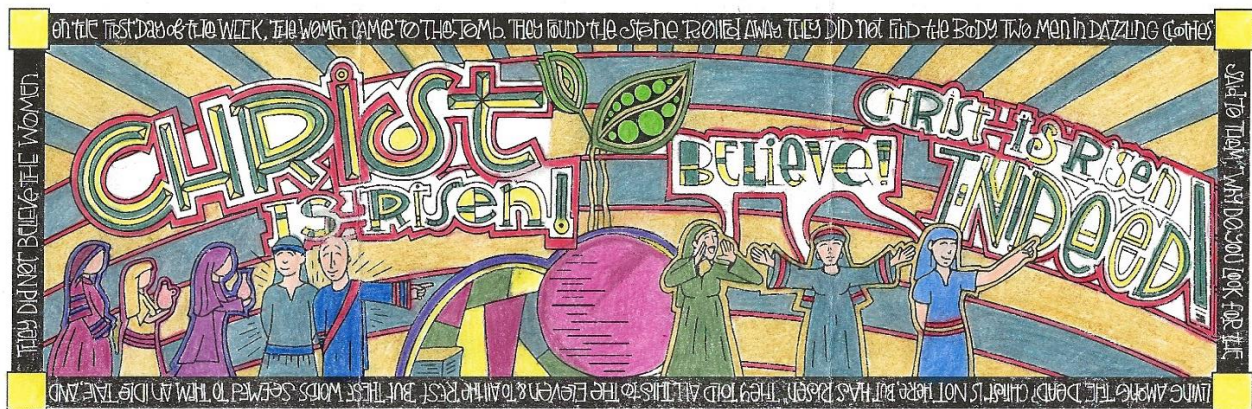
God has not only *promised* that life is stronger than death, God built signs of this promise into creation, into green emerging from what appear to be dead branches. God built signs of God's promise of resurrection into creation so that we might have hope, even in the midst of these trying times.

As hosannas echo in our ears, as we remember how the Lord of all stooped, like a common servant, to perform the menial task of washing his disciples' feet, as we trudge up the hill with the One who was carrying a cross for us and witness not only his agony, but strain to hear his dying words, as we remember we look. We look for truth. We look for truth that endures, truth that gives meaning to our lives and gives life to others. Most of all, though, we look for love: enduring love, trustworthy love, love that did not abandon Jesus in the tomb, for love that will not let us go.

Just last night Lisa told us that she discovered a tiny butterfly in her house. It was such a surprise! She has no idea how it got there. I'm sure it brought a smile to her face when she saw it. It brought a smile to mine just to listen to her account.

May your days be filled with little Easters and smiles as you look signs of new life, as you look for the living, even among what appears to be dead.

*Pastor Ruth*



Artwork from *Illustrated Ministries* and colored by Diane Keller

# NEWS & EVENTS

## in New Jerusalem and the Synod

### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our council meeting on March 8:

- Rita Kayhart, representative for our Boy Scout Troop and Pack #585, provided council with an update as to how the scouts are doing. The decision was made to not hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt due to COVID.
- A Virtual Easter Pageant will be held on Sunday, April 11, during worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Members discussed what our congregation has meant to them and shared stories. Pastor suggested starting to gather stories that members have about our church as a means to explore our heritage and the legacy we pass on as well as to help discern where God is calling us. She noted that 2020 was the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the congregation.

### WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

As present, we will continue worshipping via **Zoom**. Services are scheduled for **Sundays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, April 1 (Maundy Thursday) and Friday, April 2 (Good Friday) at 7:00 p.m.**

**Communion on the Parking Lot** will be held on **Saturday, April 3, at 5:00 p.m.**

Our **Virtual Easter Pageant** will be held on **Sunday, April 11**, during our worship service.

You can connect with Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other methods. If you are not already receiving information about how to connect, please contact the church office. Links will now also be listed in the bulletins.

Bulletins are being mailed or emailed to those who request them so that they can worship at home. If you would like to receive one, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net). Bulletins are also available on our website.

Those not able to join a service, can watch them on our Facebook page or on our website under the "Zoom Worship Services" tab.

Our website is:

<https://newjerusalemlutheran.weebly.com>

### LINK FOR ZOOM WORSHIP

New Jerusalem Sunday Worship  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89499550266?pwd=Mnl3bmxCMkI3TDIHZGIrNXVaVVlmZz09>

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**

Passcode: **27**

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89499550266# US (Chicago)

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTIONAL SUPPLEMENTS** are included with this newsletter.

### GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

This year our Good Friday worship will meditate on the Seven Last Words of Jesus. These "words" are actually sentences that the gospels record Jesus uttering from the cross. While no one Gospel contains all seven, the church has long pondered their meaning.

To enhance our worship, members of the congregation have colored illustrations for each word. These will be displayed on our Zoom slides as well as in the bulletins we mail.

We hope you will be able to join us at **7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 2** via our normal worship link. If not, we do pray that the bulletin you receive will provide a guide for your devotions for this most holy day.

### EASTER VIGIL AND COMMUNION

**Saturday, April 3, at 5:00 p.m. on the parking lot**  
Join us as we gather to watch, pray and celebrate Christ's death and resurrection and share his meal for life. Invite a friend.

Worshippers may remain in their cars or bring a lawn chair and sit appropriately distanced. Elements for communion are pre-packaged for our safety. Invite a friend. If inclement weather forces a postponement, we will post an announcement on our phone.

## **VIRTUAL EASTER PAGEANT COMING APRIL 11**

Remember our virtual Christmas pageant? Our New Jerusalem thespians (people who like to act) have been at it again. See what they've been up to when you join us for worship.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The Bible Study group has finished its study of the Book of Acts. We are currently studying the Letter to the Galatians. Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, April 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 11:00 a.m.** Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

## **COLORING GROUP**

Thank you to this group and others who colored in the outlines provided by *Illustrated Ministries* for Good Friday and this newsletter.

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m.** Pages and supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.

Not able to get to church or don't feel comfortable getting together there? Just let them know and pages will be sent to you and you can visit with other members by phone.

If you are interested please let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know.

## **THREADS FOR OTHERS**

Keep on knitting and crocheting for the Seafarers. If you need material to make masks or yarn for cowls and hats for seafarers, let Pastor Ruth know.

## **APRIL WORSHIP SPONSORS**

The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15.00 for a month. If you would like to sponsor any of the available dates below, please leave a message on the church answering machine with your dedication. Thank you!

Since the pandemic limits our ability to gather, we are now mailing bulletins to members. The cost for that is about \$45 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

## **Bulletin Sponsors for April:**

April 4 – Virginia Guinther  
April 11 – sponsor needed

April 18 – sponsor needed

April 25 – Gladys Kline

## **Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for April:**

Lucille Jones

**MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is **Sunday, April 18.** Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

## **UPDATE ON STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS**

**Blankets to tie:** We have received a Thrivent Grant with which we will soon purchase fleece to make blankets for Camp Noah. (Camp Noah is a program taken to areas impacted by disaster to help children deal with their trauma and build resilience.) If you are willing to tie a blanket or two, contact Betty Eshbach (610-987-0358). Campers are often amazed that someone made them a blanket to keep and many experience theirs as a tangible sign of God's love.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

A Festival featuring The Majestics is being planned for **Saturday, September 11.** Stewardship Committee will be asking for a Thrivent Grant to help support this.

## **Watch for these other projects:**

- Additional support for the Lutheran Center Food Pantry
- Additional support for the Brandywine Food Pantry
- Supplemental supplies for Seafarer's satchels – end date October 31
- Supplemental gifts children – end date December 10

In addition to these drives, Stewardship Committee will be working on developing an inventory of our resources, as a way of assisting the congregation in discernment of our call to ministry.

## **PASTORAL CARE DURING THE CURRENT SITUATION**

Please let Pastor Ruth know if pastoral care is needed for anyone. At present, she is able to respond via phone and electronic means. Currently she is not entering hospitals or nursing homes. At times she has been able to "meet" and even offer communion while standing outside a window or door and speaking on the phone. Please also continue to let her know when someone enters the hospital or when anyone is experiencing a change in health or situation.

Pastoral care services (chaplains) are available at each hospital to support and attend to patients' diverse spiritual needs. So, even if Pastor Ruth cannot enter a facility, care is available. Some of our parishioners have reported excellent response from these servants and, at times, when given permission, pastor Ruth can be in dialogue with a chaplain in order to enhance that care.

### **SUPER SATURDAYS**

The Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team presents Super Saturdays. Workshops will be held virtually on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$5.00. Please register in advance at [www.cvent.com/d/fjq1wn](http://www.cvent.com/d/fjq1wn). Log-in information will be sent to registrants two days before the event. Each workshop will feature a guest presenter. For a description of each workshop, check out the synod website at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).

### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021**

Two members are needed to represent New Jerusalem at the Synod Assembly which will be held ONLINE this year June 4-5, 2021. While they had hoped to gather in person, the Synod has decided to meet online in order to keep everyone safe. Please contact Jeannette DeLong or Pastor Ruth if you are interested in being a representative.

---

### **PRAYER FOR MARKING A YEAR OF COVID-19**

#### **Wonder Worker**

In this year when everything changed,  
when we felt worried and weary,  
when we wailed and we wondered,  
you gave us a promise...  
Nothing can separate us from your love.  
And nothing will be wasted.  
With you at work,  
light, life, love, and liberation  
always win.  
Amen.

Reprinted from *Illustrated Ministries*

---

### **LOVE IN ACTION**

Ever wonder how much of an impact our donations make? Here is news from several of the organizations through which we work:

### **Quilts:**

In 2020 the quilts we sent to **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)** were shipped, along with 264,575 others, around the world. In total LWR sent \$11.1 million worth of quilts, kits, masks, etc. to 616,210 neighbors in 23 countries.

### **Whose got my goat?**

Well, we don't know exactly, but we do know how much a goat donated through **ELCA Good Gifts** means to a family.

For Fabius Kyomugisha and her six children in Uganda, a gift of goats was the start of something big.

Participating in the RAC OBAO Rakai Livestock Project, a program supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, she received 5 goats and agricultural training – gifts and skills she quickly put to use. The goats provided the family with milk to drink and sell, and the local team provided regular support and veterinary services for her to make the most of her farm.

Soon, her gifts multiplied. Her five goats quickly became 13. She sold 5 of the offspring in order to repair her home and provide her children with a safe place to live, protected from mosquitoes and thieves. With earnings to invest in the village's savings and loan association, Fabius secured enough funds to pay for her children's school fees and medication.

But Fabius has bigger dreams in the works – she will soon have enough goats to buy a solar panel so her kids can read their books at night.

“Thank you,” Fabius says. “God bless your hands.”

### **SIMPLE WAYS TO PRACTICE GRATITUDE**

As a result of the pandemic, many have been making a more deliberate effort to develop a sense of gratitude and to thank people, especially those we have come to realize are really essential workers.

Here are some additional ways to practice gratitude:

- Watch inspiring videos that remind you of the good in the world.
- Include an act of kindness in your life each day.
- Call your Mom or Dad, or someone who's been like a parent, each day.
- Cook meals with love, thinking of the people you will feed or giving thanks for those whom you have fed.
- Don't gossip or speak badly about anyone.

## OUR APOLOGIES

Last month we listed the students who are in school and to think of ways you can express care and concern for them. Julian Tich was missed. He is a senior at Kutztown High School. We apologize for this omission.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT

We've just changed our clocks to allow ourselves more daylight to enjoy in the evenings.

Christians call Jesus the Light of the World. Did you know there is an organization called Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) which focuses on enabling those who are blind to share in this light, to read the good news of Jesus Christ? This group of volunteers provides braille and specialized large print Bible, study and worship material in 20 languages and reaches thousands of people in countries around the world every single year. Materials are provided for a variety of ages. Once introduced to prison chaplains in the U.S. there were orders for over 15,000 volumes within a few weeks.

A number of years ago I, Pastor Ruth, was privileged to work with someone who is completely blind. I learned that she is a Christian and, knowing about LBW, asked whether she had a braille Bible. She didn't even know such a thing existed or how to get one. I ordered a free set for her. Soon after she reported with great pride and joy that not only was she able to read scripture for herself, but she was now reading the lessons for a church service.

To learn more, go to [www.LBWloveworks.org](http://www.LBWloveworks.org) or call 800.925.6092.



- 5 Sara Jane Beshore
- 5 Justin Rahn
- 18 Jayna Howell
- 19 Erma Guinther
- 21 Annabell Keller
- 28 Amy Hahn
- 29 Daniel Moyer
- 30 Richard Carl
- 30 Dallas Bennecoff



- 9 Jason and Tina Howell (10 years)
- 15 Alan and Sherrie Carl (32 years)
- 24 Randy and Tammy Cleaver (12 years)

---

## BE A CAREMONGERER

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, a mutual-aid movement dubbed as "caremongering" quickly spread throughout Canada. Within 72 hours, 35 Facebook groups were launched so people could request and offer assistance.

This altruistic effort is essentially the opposite of fearmongering. "We wanted to switch that around and get people to connect on a positive level," says Mita Hans, who helped set up the first group. The movement, she adds, "spread the opposite of panic in people, brought out community and camaraderie, and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at-risk all the time—now more than ever."

One disabled man in Halifax who received aid through a caremongering group said it felt "like a hug." That's intentional, says participant Valentina Harper. "I think it is really showing people that there is still hope for humanity." When the pandemic is history, may we all continue to be caremongers in our communities.

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
Statement of Accounts**

**February 28, 2021**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 21,240.62
Thrivent	9,871.31
Checking	4,742.22
Youth	406.52
Fidelity	85,815.29
Cash Reserve	29,412.24
Mission Investment	11,569.98
Local Care	2,085.31
	<b>Total: \$ <u>165,143.49</u></b>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **February 29, 2020**      \$ 176,741.35

**February 2021 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income**

	Income		
	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,651.25	\$ 3,857.54	(\$ 5,793.71)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2021  
Budget Passed by Congregation  
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

**BELIEVING IN**

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it’s more about believing *in* someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn’t have to know the precise roads to Grandma’s house; he only needs to believe in his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L’Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): “The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.”

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



**PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities:** Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Leon Moyer, and Irene Noll.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members:** Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, George DeLong, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Dan and Joanne Pauley, Horace and Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, Gary and Vikie Seyfert.

**Friends of the congregation:** Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Joshua Buck, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Nicole F., Harry Geidner, Jason Grof, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Debra Kenny, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Edna Kramer, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Rodney Miller, Johnathan Naugle, Ruth Ramsey, Tierney Schmeer, Patricia Sigfried, Thomas Spraut, Robert Taylor, Jacqi Wagner, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Terry White, Althea Young, Alton Zentner, Barry, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

**OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:** We pray for all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and systemic racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world; areas enduring disaster; and migrants and refugees.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, David Jenkins, Mary Kring, Anh La, Michelle Meck, Joanne Pauley, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, the Spatz Family, and Leah Wiest.



## BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**(updated as of January 19, 2021)**

In the light of concerns about increased food needs in response to COVID-19 and possible challenges of delivering items to the food bank – please consider a generous monetary donation. We will keep you posted with information from the food pantry. You can make out a check to “**Brandywine Food Pantry,**” and mail it to **Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 122 W. Franklin St., Tipton, PA, 19562.**

Donated items in “much” need right now: coffee, fruit juices, sugar, flour, mayonnaise, ketchup, spaghetti sauce, ramen noodles or cup of noodles, beef stew, Chicken-ala-King, canned meat (such as tuna, chicken breast or Spam), Chef Boyardee style canned items (such as beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), instant potatoes, pasta or rice sides, snacks of all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), shampoo, bar soap, body wash, and laundry detergent. ***We do not currently need: corn, green beans, mixed vegetables, or tomato soup.***

The pantry is always in need of the following items:

**Canned fruits:** pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail, applesauce, etc.

**Canned vegetables:** creamed corn, sweet peas, carrots, beets, sliced potatoes, yams

**Canned goods:** diced tomatoes, tomato sauce

**Condiments:** yellow and brown mustard, pickles, salad dressings, vinegar, cooking oil

**Drinks:** hot or cold tea, water

**Extra:** peanut butter, marshmallow fluff, jelly

**Dry goods:** stuffing mix, Rice-a-Roni, ramen noodles, rice

**Baking items:** cake or brownie mix, frosting

**Breakfast food:** oatmeal, pop tarts, cereal bars

**Paper products:** tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

**Personal care items:** combs and hairbrushes

**Cleaning and disinfectant products:** dish soap and laundry detergent.

Gluten-free and sugar-free food is also greatly appreciated.

**Please check dates on donated food products.**

**As always, thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.**

---

“We have not the reason to despair, quite simply because Christ has risen.”

—Richard John Neuhaus

## STEWARDS OF OUR NATURAL WORLD

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

Type “glacier loss” into an internet search engine, examine photos of ice sheets today versus just a few decades ago, and you will draw the same conclusion as the world’s best scientists: We are losing ice, and fast.

But melting glaciers is just one of the many crises facing our natural world. Stressed by warming temperatures, rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns, acidifying ocean waters, and pollution of land, air and water, nature itself is under grave threat. Thousands of species of insects, plants and animals are going extinct as habitat, from coral reefs to rainforests to estuaries, is destroyed. “Our planet is in crisis,” says [www.campaignfornature.org](http://www.campaignfornature.org). “The natural world is disappearing at an unprecedented rate.”

For God’s people, appointed as caretakers of God’s creation, this is not just troubling news but also a call to action.

This April 22, the 51<sup>st</sup> Earth Day, let’s dedicate ourselves to learning about and fighting for God’s creation. Here are some ideas:

- Learn about the growing crises and how they threaten our lives. Teach others.
- Pick one problem and make it a focus for education, awareness, and action in your family or congregation.
- Connect with nature by visiting a park or wild place near you.
- Pick up litter and trash from the street or public land.
- Learn about the plants and animals that live in your area.
- Plant flowers, herbs, vegetables, or trees.
- Advocate for public policies that will promote conservation.
- Find a special way to observe Earth Day in your family, congregation, or community.

Our natural world is under threat, but God’s people can make a difference by caring and getting busy.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com)



## SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

### What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

### What you do:

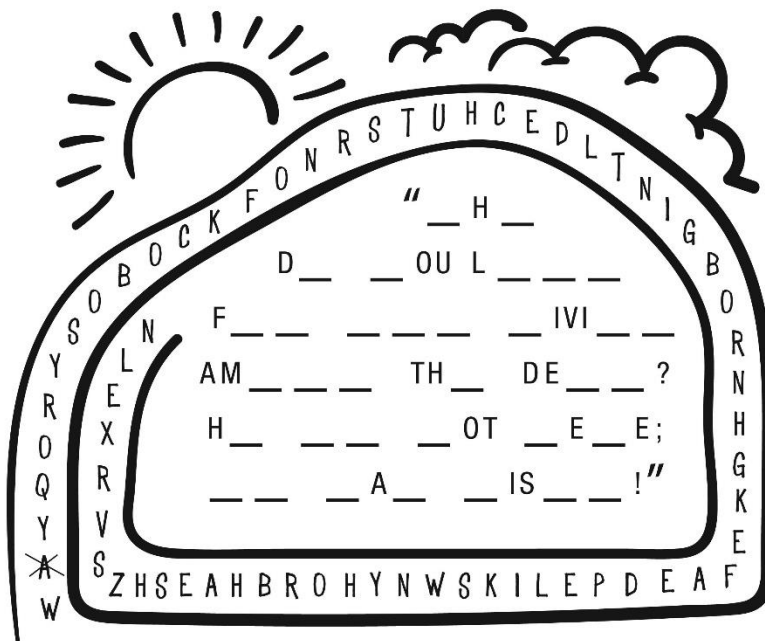
1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!



## EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

*Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.*



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

The three holy days at the center of the Christian faith are commemorated with a series of worship services known as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

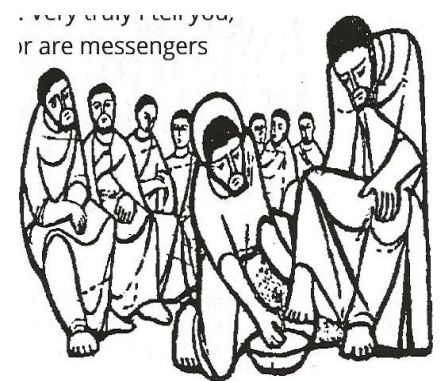
Together they are called the Triduum, and each day tells a part of the story that leads to Easter Morning; each offers us an intimate and significant encounter with Jesus. Maundy

Thursday, or Holy Thursday, is the night of The Last Supper, the meal Jesus shared with his friends before he died. For Christians, it is one of the most sacred nights of the year. Maundy is from the Latin word for "command," referring to Jesus' commandment to "Love one another." Jesus demonstrated what it means to love and serve one another by the humble act of washing his disciples' feet. This is also the night Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends, asking them to "Do this in remembrance of me" after his death. Shortly thereafter, Jesus was betrayed and arrested.

### READ

Accounts of The Last Supper are found in all four Gospels (Matthew: 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-39, John: 13:1-17:26). The story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet and the new commandment to "love one another" appears only in the Gospel of John.

John 13:12-17: After he had washed their feet and had returned to the table, Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord-and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



### WONDER

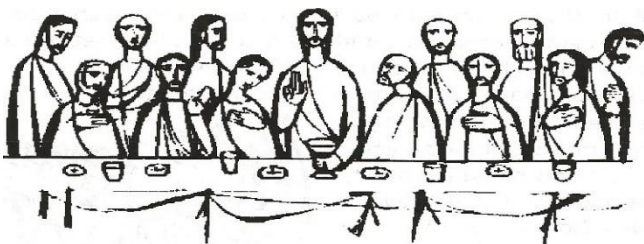
The foot washing and the command to "love one another" both call us into spaces of supreme discomfort. We have many excuses not to participate in the foot washing: it's embarrassing, it's too intimate, your socks have holes, you don't like the person doing it, your toes are weird, you don't want someone touching you, you don't have time, that's just for super religious people. The reasons it is so hard to love one another without condition are much the same: it's embarrassing, it's too intimate, you're imperfect, you don't even like one another, someone is weird or disagrees with you, you don't have time. Living into this commandment is a lifelong challenge and practice. Practice at home by washing a loved one's feet and allowing them to wash your feet. Or soak your own feet in a basin of warm water. Imagine what it would feel like to have Jesus wash your feet. Imagine what it would be like to truly love one another, as if love were an action, not a feeling.

"Engaging All Ages," Planning for Rites & Rituals: Year A, Church Publishing 2019, p. 150, adapted.

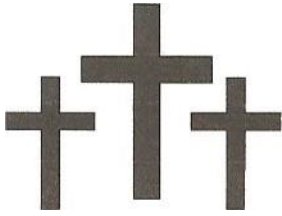
### PRAY

Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit, you have given us a new commandment: to love and serve one another in Jesus' name. Let the good news of your liberating love be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Worship, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, p. 278.



Created by The Rev. Jennifer McNally, priest at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church and convener of dinner church Table 229, St. Paul, Minnesota, and The Rev. Anna V. Ostenson Moore, Associate for Family Ministry at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis, and author of the picture books "Today Is a Baptism Day" and "We Gather at This Table." Please share freely!



## GOOD FRIDAY

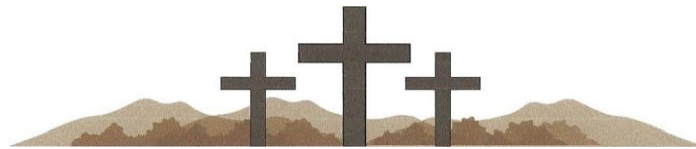
On Good Friday we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. The calendar date of Good Friday varies from year to year, along with Lent and Easter, but it is always the Friday before Easter. It is a somber day of silence and prayer and is the only day of the church year we do not celebrate the Eucharist. The origin of the name "Good" Friday is unknown. Some believe it comes from an older name, "God's Friday." Good Friday was called "Long Friday" by the Anglo-Saxons, and is called "Holy Friday" in some places. The portion of the Gospel of John known as The Passion (John 18-19) is often read on Good Friday. As we read, it is critical to understand that these texts were written in a particular context, to acknowledge that they have been wrongly used in to perpetrate anti-semitism and violence against Jewish people, and to remember it was the Roman Empire who killed Jesus. Crucifixion was a common form of public execution at the time. It is believed Jesus' crucifixion took place just outside Jerusalem, in Calvary, also called Golgotha.

### READ

John 19:17-31: So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### WONDER

At the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy, the altar is stripped of linens and the sanctuary is darkened. We remember how barren and lonely the world would feel without Jesus' life and love. On Good Friday, we immerse ourselves in the heartbreaking story of Jesus' crucifixion. Consider what objects and artwork in your home remind you of Jesus' life. Cover or put those items away until Easter. Put a cross in a space where you can sit and pray. If you don't have a cross, create one out whatever you have at home. For a time, darken your home. Put away distractions. Silence noisy devices. Sit with the cross and meditate or pray. What do you notice? How do you feel? What lamentations, sorrows, and prayers are you bringing to the cross? What do you hear when you listen to the silence?



### PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, Church Publishing, 1979, p. 282, adapted.

# SYNOD NEWS

## NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

### Growing Young & Vital: June 4&5, 2021

Registration for the 2021 Virtual Synod Assembly will run from the beginning of April through May 17, 2021. Our theme for this year is "Growing Young and Vital," which engages three different lanes: loving the land, healing the hurt, and engaging the stranger. We are a church in three expressions, Churchwide, synods, and congregations. In each expression of the church we seek to find joy and vitality in ministry with people of all ages.

This year we'll welcome Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to participate in the installation of our Bishop, Christopher deForest! We'll also elect members of our synod to attend the Churchwide Assembly (CWA) as voting members in 2022.

Along with electing voting members to the CWA, we will be engaging important issues



*"So then if any person is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things are gone away, and look, new things have arrived".*  
2 Corinth. 5:17, CEB

### New Life and Vital Signs

We are resurrection people living in the hope and promise of eternal life in Christ. For us as Christ's followers, new life follows death, and there are signs of new life everywhere!

Sometimes, it feels as if we have been in a place between sleep and waking for these past twelve months, but new life is happening! If last spring was a time when we experienced more closely than ever the kind of fear and sadness the disciples may have felt at the death of Jesus, this year, while there is still much grief and weariness of these difficult days, we are also experiencing the newness of life, in powerful ways, as we head toward the empty tomb and lives of liberation, aliveness, and joy of the resurrection!

Some of the most moving moments of new life for me in recent weeks has been visiting people in local nursing homes for the first time since last year. It was wonderful to be physically present and spending time with God's people.

There is much energy and new life at **Christ Lutheran**

and topics, attending to the business of our synod as outlined in the constitution, and participating together in festival worship.

While we talk about, wonder about, and carry out our theme: Growing Young and Vital, we'll be setting the stage for asking congregations and ministries throughout our synod to identify their vital signs and places they're healing the hurt, engaging the stranger, and loving the land!



## BISHOP INSTALLATION

You're invited to worship with us as we install our Bishop, Christopher deForest. This will take place after the synod assembly. Whether you attend the synod assembly or not, you're invited to participate fully in the Installation Worship! We will broadcast the installation worship live for all to participate and witness this truly joyous occasion. More information will follow letting you know how to connect to the worship and specific start time. Please plan to attend as we connect all three expressions of the church!

**Conyngnam**, and it feels exciting, like when the beautiful spring flowers pop out of the thawing ground in spring. Some of the new and renewed life, includes getting started with **Growing Young**, and having our first get together this week to dive into the book and the six essential strategies so that we might continue to engage people of all ages in the life of the church. We hope to create excitement and vitality for people of every age on the disciple's path engage in leadership, and God's ministries in action. For Easter there are various exciting things happening... Among them, Christ Lutheran will have its first Outdoor Sunrise Easter Service, and stations of the cross set up in the outdoor areas. We've invited people from the congregation and community to pick up a devotional, and take a self-guided prayer walk any day during Holy Week. **We are also re-establishing a congregational care team** and adding some new ways for folks to minister to one another. We also experience new life in getting back to many of the already established life-giving ministries here! Thanks be to God for new life, new creation, and new beginnings!

### Meet Eric Gombert

I was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley where I graduated from Whitehall High School. College years found me at Westminster Choir College, completing my degree in Sacred Music with a concentration in organ. During the thirty plus years since, I've taught both piano & organ, directed a community chorus, performed with regional ensembles, worked in business with roles including payroll, accounts payable, & technology, and served both part-time and full-time as musician for Lutheran congregations. All of this has come together to a place in my life when I am actively utilizing my gifts in both the musical & administrative areas. As **Director of Operations at the Synod**, I am responsible for overseeing building resources & technology, & the functions of bookkeeper and financial administrator. My husband, Matthew, and I have been together since 2000 & married since 2015. We are actively involved with raising our Great Dane puppy, wiping dog drool from everything, including the ceiling, roasting coffee, and tending our organic garden.



# APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm-Maundy Thursday Worship Service on Zoom  Maundy Thursday	2 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Good Friday Worship Service on Zoom  Good Friday	3 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot
4 Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	5 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	6	7 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8	9 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	10
11 Second Sunday of Easter Virtual Easter Pageant 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	12 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting	13	14 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	15	16 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17
18 Third Sunday of Easter 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	19 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	20	21 11:30am-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon (location TBD) 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	22	23 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	24
25 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:00am-Worship on Zoom Pastor Rachael Dietz, Guest Preacher.	26 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	27	28 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29	30 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	