

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

SECRETARY HOURS:

Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (in-office hours from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.), Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.



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.*



I saw raindrops on my window, Joy is like the rain.

Dear Friends,

It's April. Usually this is a rainy time of year — “April showers” and all that. Seems we've had a lot of gray days and drizzly days already in March, so I'm not sure I'm looking forward to more rain, unless we really get good and significant enough precipitation that will give us the moisture we need to replenish the land and grant a healthy harvest. (Not too demanding, am I?) But how, you might ask, might joy be like the rain?

The hymn I'm focused on this month was written and sung by the Medical Mission Sisters based in Philadelphia. Founded in 1925, this was the first group of Catholic Sisters to be engaged in the full range of professional medical work. They are committed to engaging in the brokenness of our world. Currently they work in 17 countries on five continents, often in refugee camps.

One of their members, Sister Miriam Therese Winter, is very experienced in the pain of the world. She is also particularly gifted in writing and singing seemingly simple songs that spread the good news of God's love. Some of us are familiar with the song, “I Cannot Come to the Banquet.” (We'll sing it on Palm Sunday.) In 1966 Sister Miriam produced a record, “Joy is Like the Rain” which was one of my favorites when I was in college. It's the thoughts of the title song that I share with you today.

So, again, how is joy like the rain?

*I saw raindrops on my window, Joy is like the rain.
Laughter runs across my pane, slips away and comes again.
Joy is like the rain.*

Joy. Joy is deeper than happiness. You can't hold on to it, but it can have a staying power. You can have a sense of joy even when on the surface it doesn't look like things are going very well. Joy can exist in spite of pain. It has to do with a feeling of being blessed. Yes, this feeling may lead you to laugh and sing, but many of us have also experienced tears of joy. Joy can give you a sense of energy, of focus and strength to face the future, even when that future is uncertain. It can also give you a sense of calm.

See whether you can resonate with this description:

*I saw clouds upon a mountain, Joy is like a cloud.
Sometimes silver, sometimes grey, always sun not far away.
Joy is like a cloud.*

Have you ever thought of joy being like a cloud? Sometimes silver, sometimes grey? Have you ever thought about how, even on a very cloudy day, the sun really isn't any farther away than it usually is? Neither is God's love on those cloudy, very cloudy, days of our lives.

Or how about this:

*I saw Christ in wind and thunder, Joy is tried by storm.
Christ asleep within my boat, whipped by wind and still afloat.
Joy is tried by storm.*

Yes, joy is tried by storm and, like the fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, we never know when a storm might blow in and threaten to swamp our boat. (Read Matthew 8:23-27.) What an interesting picture of faith, to have Christ right there in our boat, even if it seems like he is sleeping, oblivious to what is going on.

Finally,

*I saw raindrops on the river, joy is like the rain.
Bit by bit the river grows, till all at once it overflows.
Joy is like the rain.*

As we journey this month through the streets of Jerusalem, labor to understand what is happening on the hill of crucifixion, approach the tomb with fear, or run from it not knowing what to think, remember who journeys with you. Whether it be bit by bit like drizzle, as a refreshing shower, or even a downpour, may the experience of God's love and care, and the assurance that nothing in life nor death can ever separate us from that love, grow in you and among us until we overflow with joy, for Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Pastor Ruth

*Easter triumph, Easter Joy, this alone can sin destroy,
from sin's power Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!*

Latin Hymn tr. by Robert Campbell

Alleluia

NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were covered at our Council Meeting on Monday, March 13:

- Two delegates are needed to represent New Jerusalem at the East Berks Mission District meeting and the Synod Assembly.
- Pastor has met with Shandale and Pastor Earl Wise of The Real Church. We will be exploring ways to get to know their members and work together to share resources.
- In an effort to take inventory and organize our resources, Spring Cleaning will take place on April 15 starting at 8:00 a.m.
- The stairs leading up to the altar have been repaired by Alan Turner.
- 4 double-sided street signs for Easter entitled “He Is Risen” and our church information will be purchased.
- The Lyons Fire Company completed a tour of our building so that they would know the layout should they have to respond to an emergency.
- Our council will be meeting for the second time with that of St. Paul’s, Mertztown on March 27.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.**

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, April 3, 10, and 24 at 11:00 a.m.** We will continue our study of 1st and 2nd Peter. New members are welcome.

COLORING GROUP

The next meeting is **Thursday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m.** Friends are welcome. Contact Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) if you would like pages sent to you.

PASTA DINNER

Thank you to all who helped with our Pasta Dinner on Saturday, March 11. We made a profit of \$800.00, of which 10% will go to the Brandywine Heights Area School District Backpack Buddy program.

SIX-WEEK SERIES LIVING WITH LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Are you grieving the loss of your loved one? Find help and hope while meeting others living with loss in this grief support group offered at NO COST to our community and friends. **Beginning Tuesday, April 11, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and every Tuesday until May 16.** Held at Ludwick Funeral Homes and 4Cremation Care, Inc., 333 Greenwich Street, Kutztown. Facilitated by MaryAnn Hamm, Bereavement and Grief Counselor. To register, please contact Carol at 610.682.2434

THE COMPASSIONATE CRAFTERS

Want to make things that not only glorify God’s glory but also help make the world a better place? If so, you are welcome to join with other crafters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Topton. Meetings take place on **Thursday, April 13 and Thursday, April 27 this month from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** in the Sunday School room.

SPRING CLEANING

We will be doing some spring cleaning around church on Saturday, **April 15, at 8:00 a.m.** We would appreciate any help you can offer.

JAMES MEN’S MINISTRY (JMM)

Breakfast gatherings start at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Their next meeting will be held **Saturday, April 15,** at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton.

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the March newsletter is **Sunday, April 16.**

HELPING HARVEST/TOPTON MOBILE MARKET

The Helping Harvest food distribution will take place on **Tuesday, April 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Brandywine Heights IS/MS.

HYMN SING – Sunday, April 23, 2023

Join us for worship on Sunday, April 23, where we will be singing some of your favorite hymns. Let us know by April 17 what you would like to sing.

SOUP, SANDWICH AND BAKED GOODS SALE – Saturday, April 29, 2023

New Jerusalem will be holding a soup, sandwich and baked goods sale. We will be offering a choice of chicken noodle, potato, and chili for \$10.00/quart. Pre-orders will be taken for the soup. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex or slips of paper you can fill out. You can also call the church office at 610.682.6064 or email the church office to place your orders (njelchurch@windstream.net). Meatball sandwiches, hamburgers, and baked goods will also be available to take home with you or eat in. Sign up in the fellowship area to help and/or contribute baked goods.

MIDWEEK LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

The theme for this year's Lenten worship is *The Desert of Compassion*. Locations are as follows:

- April 5 – St. Paul's, Mertztown, 7:00 p.m.
Theme: Do This and You Will Live
Preacher: Rev. Kimberly Berenotto
- April 6 – Maundy Thursday
New Jerusalem Lutheran
Soup and Bread Fellowship Meal, 5:30 p.m.
Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.
- April 7 – Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Christ Mertz, Dryville
St. Paul's, Mertztown
- April 8 – Easter Vigil on the Parking Lot, 5:00 p.m.
New Jerusalem Lutheran

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

New Jerusalem will be hosting a Maundy Thursday worship service on April 6. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. we will have a fellowship meal of soup and bread. The worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. when we will not only share the meal Jesus gave his disciples, but journey with him to the cross. If you are able to help prepare the soup, please see any council member. Thank you!

EASTER VIGIL ON THE PARKING LOT.

Once again New Jerusalem will hold an Easter Vigil with communion on our parking lot at 5:00 p.m. (In case of rain, we will meet indoors.) What better location than this to remind ourselves that God is in the business of resurrection, that God is not a god of the dead, but of the living and even those whose physical bodies have died, are even now alive in God.

EAST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT (EBMD) AND SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Two members are needed to represent New Jerusalem at the EBMD meeting (May 4) and the Synod Assembly (June 1–3). If you are interested, please see Pastor Ruth.

BINGO WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOPTON LUTHERAN HOME

Calling all Brandywine Heights area churches youth and adults, come play bingo with the residents of the Lutheran Home on

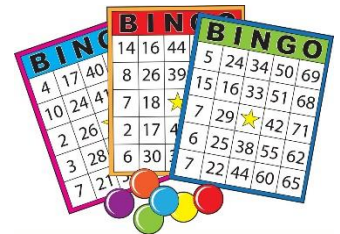
Saturday, May 6th. Help with transport, assist the residents in playing, enjoy a good time, distribute prizes, bring a smile to others—get plenty in return, get to know our neighbors on the hill.

Congregations are asked to collect and bring along prizes such as: tissue boxes, stamps, greeting cards, snacks, lotions, aftershave, candy, etc.

Helpers are asked to arrive at 1:00 p.m. for check-in and instructions. Meet at the main entrance – Deibert Hall. Bingo will start around 2:00 p.m. and we should be finished by 4:00 p.m.

MUSIC FESTIVAL WITH THE MAJESTICS

Mark **Saturday, July 29**, on your calendar for an evening of fun and toe tapping, hand clapping music with “The Majestics Band.” Other congregations will be assisting us with setup and food. More details to come at a later date.



Upcoming Events

- **Soup, Sandwich and Baked Goods Sale**, Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Youth Bingo**, Lutheran Home, Diebert Hall, Saturday, May 6, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- **Community Outdoor Worship in Bowers Park**, Sunday, May 21, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
- **Music Festival featuring The Majestics Band**, Saturday, July 29. Bowers Park
- **Community Outdoor Worship in Bowers Park**, Sunday, August 6, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
- **Youth Volleyball**, Longswamp Township Park, Saturday, August 12, 1:00 p.m.

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!

On March 19, 15 members of local churches gathered at New Jerusalem and stuffed 40 animals to be given as Bingo prizes at The Lutheran Home on May 6. Top “stuffer”: our own Steve Seip who completed 8.

CLEAN-UP BUCKET PROJECT: DONE

Thanks to Phyllis Fenstermacher for getting a Thrivent Grant, to all who donated items for these buckets, and Logan, Carson and Steve Seip who purchased extra materials and packed 6 buckets. Soon these will be on their way to storehouses so they can be delivered to places impacted by disaster, like the areas of Mississippi we are seeing on the news.

BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2023: THE BODY OF CHRIST

Friday through Sunday, March 24-26, Carson, Logan and Steve Seip along with Pastor Ruth attended the East Berks Confirmation Retreat held at our ELCA Bear Creek Camp in the Poconos. We focused on how each of us is an important member of the body of Christ. We also learned about other members of the body including Lutherans around the world. Ask the guys which country has the most Lutherans. It will probably surprise you. We also thought about who is often marginalized or left out of the body, people discriminated against, not paid attention to or forgotten because of people's pre-judgments about their worth. On Saturday evening we shared the body and blood of Christ with one another in a communion service.

During free time, participants hiked, played games, and worked on weaving a mat for the homeless and tying a quilt for Lutheran World Relief.

The Seip guys report that the best parts of the retreat were:

- The hike.
- The game room.
- Playing games with others.
- The talk with Pastor Woody who described how prejudice about gender and race have affected her, but how she is now able to do ministry and serve her own congregation.
- The way the women preparing the meals looked out for the special needs of some of the participants.

NEW AMERICAN CITIES

New American Cities program is a program of our Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

Thinking about people who are on the margins:

Refugees and immigrants in the U.S. often accept the first job offered – usually a low-wage, entry-level position. They work long hours and overtime just to make ends meet, leaving little opportunity to save money and much less time to plan for the future. Thankfully, people like you believe that our new neighbors have a right to do more than just survive. That's where New American Cities, a program of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services comes in. This program provides career navigation services and connects people to *pathway builders* who develop relationships between refugees and employers. It also helps them discover training opportunities and address barriers to career advancement.

And it works! An example is Khattab, who came to the U.S. from Sudan with a bachelor's degree in information systems management from the Sudan University of Science and Technology. He had extensive experience working as an IT specialist for multiple nonprofit organizations in Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania.

However, many employers did not recognize his accreditations or experience. So he continued his education by obtaining other IT certificates and becoming active in the IT community.

But Khattab still faced many barriers and was unsuccessful in finding a career utilizing his degree—until he sought assistance from the New American Cities program, in which he was provided with job leads, networking opportunities, and help with his interview skills. After spending only two months with the team, he landed a professional career working as an IT specialist.

Not only can Khattab support himself, but he can also take pride that he's doing what he was meant to do.

Refugees are **scientists**.
Refugees are **doctors**.
Refugees are **volunteers**.
Refugees are **nurses**.
Refugees are **us**.



LIRS

80 Years
of Welcome

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF COUNCILS OF ST. PAUL'S, MERTZTOWN AND NEW JERUSALEM

Meeting for the second time over dinner, council members from New Jerusalem and St. Paul's took time to get to know each other as individuals and then to discuss what we have in common, ways our ministries complement each other, and how we might work together in the future. At the end we decided to take time to chew on and digest what was discussed and meet again, hopefully quarterly.

So, what do we have in common – more than we expected:

- Food (feeding ourselves and others)
- Fun
- Family - a sense of being a family
- Helping those in need
- Financial and property challenges
- Pastors who come down into the congregation to preach and interact during sermons
- Trying to grow as a congregation
- Active members with many talents
- Both were union churches at one time

MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, AND HOLY SATURDAY

The three days at the center of the Christian faith are remembered with a series of worship services known as the three days (Triduum). Each day tells a part of the story that leads to Easter morning.

On Maundy Thursday we remember how Jesus gave a new commandment (*mandatum*) that we love one another and demonstrated such love by taking the role of a servant and washing his disciples' feet. We also recall and share the supper he gave them in the upper room.

This year at New Jerusalem, since we will not have a separate service on Friday, we will, following communion, immerse ourselves in the readings from Matthew that tell of Jesus' final hours. In essence we will walk with him to the cross. At the end of this liturgy the altar will be stripped of linens and other adornments, a veil will be placed over the cross and the altar area will be darkened. We will then depart in silence to observe Friday and Holy Saturday (the day Jesus was in the grave) with quiet and contemplation.

We will return Saturday evening for the Easter Vigil, a time to remember how God keeps God's promises, renew our baptismal vows and then, mark the transition from grief to hope, certainty, trust and even joy by announcing and celebrating the resurrection.

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS 40 Days, 40 Food Items

In observance of the Lenten Season, many people choose to "give up" something then enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. An alternative to or perhaps in addition to this observance is to "take on" something new. Please consider contributing food to the Brandywine Food Pantry. You can collect an item for each day of the 40 days in Lent.

1. peanut butter
2. jelly
3. Spaghetti O's
4. canned chicken
5. ramen noodles
6. oatmeal
7. canned green beans
8. canned fruits
9. canned carrots
10. Manwich
11. Knorr's
12. canned tuna
13. juice
14. flour
15. sugar
16. macaroni and cheese
17. ready-made soups
18. instant mashed potatoes
19. toilet paper
20. paper towels
21. Hamburger Helper
22. canned corn
23. coffee
24. baked beans
25. toothbrushes
26. toothpaste
27. bath soap
28. laundry detergent
29. shampoo
30. conditioner
31. deodorant
32. crackers
33. spaghetti sauce
34. ketchup
35. salad dressings
36. mustard
37. tomato soup
38. Chef Boyardee
39. granola bars
40. microwave meals



We do accept sugar free, low sodium, and gluten free. The Brandywine Food Pantry is located at St. Peter's UCC, 122 West Franklin Street, Topton, PA 19562.



WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS

Altar Flower Sponsors:

April 2 – Faye and Larry Dey
April 9 – Lisa Landis
April 16 – *sponsor needed*
April 23 – *sponsor needed*
April 30 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors:

April 2 – Cheryl Wiltrout
April 9 – Korinne Hotzman
April 16 – *sponsor needed*
April 23 – Gladys Kline
April 30 – *sponsor needed*

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:

Alan and Sherrie Carl

Altar Guild Volunteer(s):

Tara Basta

Communion Bread Sponsor:

April 2 – Vikie Seyfert
April 6 (Maundy Thursday) – Pastor Ruth
April 9 – Vikie Seyfert

Communion Set-up Volunteer:

April 2 – Gladys Kline
April 6 (Maundy Thursday) – Faye Dey
April 9 – *volunteer needed*

Readers:

April 2 – Members of New Jerusalem
April 9 – Gladys Kline
April 16 – Cindy Rissmiller
April 23 – Kathy Bailey
April 30 – Dale Schwoyer

Councilperson(s) for the Month:

Sherrie Carl

WISE SAYINGS

It is better to walk alone, than with a crowd going in the wrong direction.

Don't do something permanently stupid because you are temporarily upset.

When you make a commitment, you build hope.
When you keep it, you build trust.

THANK GOD FOR OUR FOOD

God said [to Adam and Eve], ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. - **Genesis 1:29**

There's an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, ‘Where do apples come from?’ Little Ian speaks up: ‘From the supermarket!’

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food – every bite – comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it's God's miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God's miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- Mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest; for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating, discuss the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Saturday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, reserve a Sunday for a service highlighting creation and food. Maybe ‘Blessing of the Seeds,’ or the ancient ‘Rogation Sunday’ ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

--Rob Blezard

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

February 28, 2023

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 18,532.74
Thrivent	10,337.73
Checking	3,065.66
Youth	412.68
Fidelity	53,283.53
Cash Reserve	14,422.70
Mission Investment Fund	11,670.76
Local Care	<u>2,395.31</u>

Total: \$ 114,121.11

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **February 28, 2022** \$ 143,034.64

February 2023 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income		
Income	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,860.00	\$ 2,797.00	\$ (7,063.00)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2023
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*



- 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



- 9 Jason and Tina Howell (12 years)
- 15 Alan and Sherrie Carl (34 years)
- 24 Randy and Tammy Cleaver (14 years)

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Myles Angstadt, Erma Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Irene Noll, and Gabriele Sanders.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT
Members: Holly Allen, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Brian Keller, Diane Keller, Rodney Keller, Forrest Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Lloyd Moyer, and Horace Rothermel.

Friends of the congregation: Charlie Ackerman, John Arndt, Steve Beck (TX), Jason Beshore, Darlene Bogert, Bishop Christopher deForest, Earl Derr, John Drumheller, Jennifer Engle, Alice Epler, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Katelyn Hotzman, Debra Kenny, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Julia Lombardo, Joe M., Vivian Reist, Arlan Schwoyer, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Spatz, Robert Taylor, Leon Wagner, Tim Walck, Leticia Weaver, Richard Weller, Family and friends of Bruce Werley, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Jason, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for: peace in the world, and particularly in the Ukraine and eastern Europe; all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters, especially those in Puerto Rico; migrants and refugees; for our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Carrie Bausch, Nancy Bennecoff, Gary DeWees, Katie Didyoung, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, Johnson-Agiri Family, Mary Kring, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Tierney Schmeer, Donna Schwoyer, Lesley Wegman, and Linda Wegman.

EARTH DAY

April 22, 2023

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues, and Earth Day 2023 will occur on Saturday, April 22. The holiday is now a global celebration that's sometimes extended into Earth Week, a full seven days of events focused on green living and confronting the climate crisis. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson and inspired by the protests of the 1960s, Earth Day began as a "national teach-in on the environment" and was held on April 22 to maximize the number of students that could be reached on university campuses. By raising public awareness of pollution, Nelson hoped to bring environmental causes into the national spotlight.

Earth Day History

By the early 1960s, Americans were becoming aware of the effects of pollution on the environment. Rachel Carson's 1962 best-seller *Silent Spring* raised the specter of the dangerous effects of pesticides on the American countryside. Later in the decade, a 1969 fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River shed light on the problem of chemical waste disposal. Until that time, protecting the planet's natural resources was not part of the national political agenda, and the number of activists devoted to large-scale issues such as industrial pollution was minimal. Factories pumped pollutants into the air, lakes and rivers with few legal consequences. Big, gas-guzzling cars were considered a sign of prosperity. Only a small portion of the American population was familiar with—let alone practiced—recycling.

Who Started Earth Day?

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962, Senator Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, was determined to convince the federal government that the planet was at risk. In 1969, Nelson, considered one of the leaders of the modern environmental movement, developed the idea for Earth Day after being inspired by the anti-Vietnam War "teach-ins" that were taking place on college campuses around the United States. According to Nelson, he envisioned a large-scale, grassroots environmental demonstration "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda."

On the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, rallies were held in Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and most other American cities, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. In New York City, Mayor John Lindsay closed off a portion of Fifth Avenue to traffic for several hours and spoke at a rally in Union Square with actors Paul Newman and Ali McGraw. In Washington, D.C., thousands of people listened to speeches and performances by singer Pete Seeger and others, and Congress went into recess so its members could speak to their constituents at Earth Day events.

The first Earth Day was effective at raising awareness about environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "Public opinion polls indicate that a permanent change in national priorities followed Earth Day 1970. When polled in May 1971, 25 percent of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be an important goal, a 2,500 percent increase over 1969." Earth Day kicked off the "Environmental decade with a bang," as Senator Nelson later put it. During the 1970s, a number of important pieces of environmental legislation were passed, among them the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. Another key development was the establishment in December 1970 of the Environmental Protection Agency, which was tasked with protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment—air, water and land.

What Do You Do For Earth Day?

Since 1970, Earth Day celebrations have grown. In 1990, Earth Day went global, with 200 million people in over 140 nations participating, according to the Earth Day Network (EDN), a nonprofit organization that coordinates Earth Day activities. In 2000, Earth Day focused on clean energy and involved hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries and 5,000 environmental groups, according to EDN. Today, the Earth Day Network collaborates with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, making it "the largest secular civic event in the world."

Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

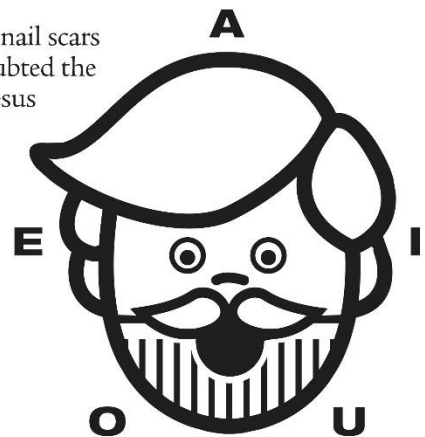


SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:

Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ s _ _ y _ _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion	3 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Daniel Moyer	4 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal David and Diana Moyer and Family	5 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, St. Paul's, Mertztown David Moyer and Family	6 9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton 10:00am-Coloring Group 5:30pm-Fellowship Meal before worship service 7:00pm-Maundy Thursday Worship Service at New Jerusalem Lloyd and Linda Moyer	7 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton 7:00pm-Good Friday Worship Service at Christ Mertz, Dryville Blane and Jennifer Musser and Family	8 5:00pm-Easter Vigil on the Parking Lot at New Jerusalem
9 <u>Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion	10 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Mtg. Irene Noll	11 1:30-3:00pm-Bereavement Support Group, Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Ty and Cindy Rissmiller and Family	12 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Horace Rothermel	13 Gabriele Sanders	14 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton Dale Schwoyer	15 8:00am-Spring Cleaning at New Jerusalem 8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Topton
16 <u>Second Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship -Fellowship after worship -Newsletter Deadline NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Elaine Seip	18 11:00am-1:00pm-Helping Harvest Food Distribution at Brandywine Heights Intermediate/Middle School 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Steven and Lydia Seip and Family	19 12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon (location TBD) 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Vikie Seyfert	20 9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton Darla Stout	21 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton Kevin Stump	22 EARTH DAY
23 <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship -Hymn Sing	24 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Julian Tich	25 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Dorothy Turner	26 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Brenda Wagaman	27 Todd Wagaman	28 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton David and Dawn Wartzluft and Family	29 10:00am-2:00pm-Soup, Sandwich, and Baked Goods Sale at New Jerusalem
30 <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship -Fellowship after worship						