

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.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.*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I write this, thousands in California are fleeing for their lives, knowing that their houses and community structures are being destroyed by fire and there will be no such thing as returning to life as they knew it. As I write this, a caravan of migrants is walking toward the southern border of the United States, thousands of people fleeing violence, abuse, and poverty, hoping to find security and a chance to pursue a better life for themselves and their children. In the same way thousands of people are on the move all over the world. Truth be told, many of our ancestors came to this country for the same reasons. My paternal great grandfather came because he could not make a living in his village in Wissek, Germany, which is now a part of Poland. My maternal grandfather came from northern Germany to escape conscription into the Kaiser's army.

People are always on the move, often not by their own choice or under the best of situations.

*“And Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. – Luke 2:4*

God's people are on the move. In fact, they are always on the move. Joseph, we are told, had to take Mary, who was “great with child”, to Bethlehem, a journey of about 100 miles, all on foot. According to Luke, they and thousands of others were on the move because Emperor Caesar Augustus, wanted to take a census. What did representatives of the dominant culture, the Roman soldiers, think about the many ragtag groups that slogged toward the towns of their birth? What disparaging remarks did they make? Did anyone suspect that God was on the move with these people?

After the census, after Mary “had been delivered”, the holy family was on the move again because “an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’” (Matthew 2:13) This time the trip was over 300 miles, done in stealth, not with a caravan, for they hoped to slip across the border unnoticed. There was little time to prepare for this journey and we know of no one who went along to support or encourage the little family.

God's people are always on the move. We could also say, people literally on the move always include God's people, for God “so loved [and loves] “the [whole] world.”

Yes, God's people are always on the move, journeying from some place to a different place, from what we have known into the unknown, always yearning for a safe-place, a life-giving place, a place where we can make our home. Sometimes we have a choice, a new opportunity.

Even then the journey can be a bit frightening. Often we have no choice. Sometimes the journey is a literal one: moving from one residence to another to attend college, take a new job, or downsize because we are at a different stage of life. Sometimes the journey is a physical one: from health to less health, with little hope of full recovery of what we once were. Sometimes the journey is a spiritual one: a faith that had been comfortable and comforting, no longer seems to fit because we have grown up or are facing new challenges. Sometimes the journey is a communal or congregational one, where many face an uncertain future. Sometimes all of these journeys are taking place at the same time.

As we become aware of others who are "on the move" and as we, ourselves, experience the journeys of life, may we grow in compassion for our fellow travelers, share our resources as well, as we are ready, our reasons for traveling, and graciously receive the support of others. As we travel may we learn that a house is not the same as home.

Come and journey with us this Advent and Christmas. Discover with us that God not only sends us companions, angels and stars to guide us every day, but walks alongside us and knows the resting places as well as the way to find our true refuge, our true home. Be reassured that with God's help we will not only be secure as we travel, but also arrive in a safe place and experience a life that, while different from what we have known, is so much better.

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. – ELW p. 317*

*Pastor Ruth*



# NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at their November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- The heater at the Scout cabin will be replaced. The old one was deemed unsafe to use.
- A Lessons and Carols service will be held on Sunday, December 30.
- Boy Scout, Phillip Fabian, raised enough money for his Eagle Scout Project to purchase AED's (Automated External Defibrillator) for five churches. New Jerusalem's will be installed on November 25 after the worship service. It will be mounted on the wall near the greeter's table.
- Getting estimates on replacing the doorbell at the front door.
- 760 shoo-fly pies were baked on October 29-31, with an estimated profit of \$3,200.

## DECEMBER SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Flower sponsors for December 9, 23, 24, and 30, Bulletin sponsors for December 16 and 24, a Children's Bulletin sponsor, an Altar Guild volunteer(s), and Communion Bread sponsors and Communion Set-up volunteers for December 2 and 24.

## DECEMBER GREETERS SIGN-UP SHEET

Greeters are needed for December 23, 24 (9 p.m.) and 30. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Join us on **Friday, November 30, at 6:00 p.m.** to help get the church ready for Christmas. We will have pizza to eat. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to get.



## SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE SALE

The last bake until the spring will be held **Monday, December 3 to Wednesday, December 5**. Please contact the church office if you would like to order any pies. Pies are \$5.00 each.

## POINSETTIA FLOWER ORDERS

Help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas with red poinsettias. Order forms are due to the church office by **Sunday, December 9**. The price this year is \$10.00 each for a 6-inch pot. An order form is included in this newsletter and extra forms are on the greeter's table in the narthex.

## “GETTING READY” - FAITH FORMATION EVENT – December 16

Ever wonder how God got ready for Christmas? Come and learn with us as we explore how God prepared for the special day we call Christmas using very ordinary things. Using common items we will make a reminder of what we will celebrate, and share a snack. Don't forget to bring your lunch! All ages welcome!

## JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by **Sunday, December 16**.

## CHRISTMAS EVE – 5 O’CLOCK FAMILY SERVICE: THE CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT

Who doesn't love to discover new things? Have you ever found a treasure hidden in plain sight? Join us for worship and fun as we explore the treasures and Treasure of Christmas. Cake and other ways to continue the party follow the 5 p.m. service.

## CHRISTMAS EVE – 9 O’CLOCK TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM AND BEYOND

Join us as we journey from Advent to Christmas to the present time. Our traditional Candlelight Service begins with pre-service music at 8:45 p.m. with the service starting at 9:00 p.m. Holy Communion and fellowship will follow the service.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on **Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25**, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

## NO BELL OR ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS

There will be no Choir Rehearsals on Tuesday, December 25 or Tuesday, January 1. Rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, January 8. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Love to sing Christmas carols? Find their words meaningful, inspiring and comforting? Many of us can't get enough of these songs of Christmas joy! Join us for this special service of Scripture and Christmas hymns on **Sunday, December 30, at 10 a.m.**

## ELCA GOOD GIFTS CATALOG

Looking for a unique gift or a way to honor someone? Check out the catalog that you picked up or arrived in your mailbox for ideas, then make a donation and hang an ornament on our tree.

## ADVENT CALENDAR & ADVENT STUDY

Each family will be receiving an Advent Study with readings and prayers to guide you through Advent, and an Advent calendar with pictures to open up each day.

## LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2019 – Be Not Afraid—Being the Church in a Changing World

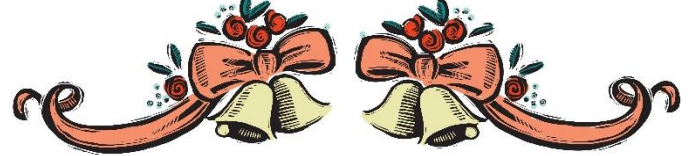
At this year's Learning Ministries Day, a variety of workshops, such as, "Singing the Liturgy in the ELW," "Social Media-Basic and Advanced," "Family Ministry Ideas," "Bible Study on Fear," and "History of Spirituality" will be offered. These are just a few of the workshop themes for this year's Learning Ministries Day. Workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon. Participants can choose to learn about new resources, learn a skill, or choose a workshop for their own personal growth. A lunch is provided. Learning Ministries Day will be held at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, on **Saturday, January 26 starting at 8:30 a.m. with registration, and concluding at 3:00 p.m.** (Snow Date Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) Registration forms and complete informational materials are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Through December 31, the cost for the event is \$30/person, and after that date will cost \$45/person. For more information, contact Cheryl Statham at [cstatham@ptd.net](mailto:cstatham@ptd.net) or Marlene Werkheiser at [mkwerky@msn.com](mailto:mkwerky@msn.com).

## INCELEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In the event church needs to be cancelled, you can listen to WFMZ, WAEB 790AM, or watch Channel 69 news. You may also call the church office at 610.682.6064 and there will be a recorded message on the answering machine on Sunday morning if the service or any events are cancelled.

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## Best Wishes



It is with great joy that we offer our congratulations to Amy Elizabeth Broussard and Timothy Jarrett Hahn on their marriage on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## THE LEGEND OF THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

There's an old Christmas legend about the animals who shared the stable with the Christ child. Each animal bestowed a gift on Him. The legend says the animals in the stable gained the power of speech for that night. Here's a portion of an old English Christmas carol based on the legend:

Jesus our brother, kind and good,  
Was humbly born in a stable rude;  
And the friendly beasts around Him stood.  
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
"I carried His mother up hill and down;  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town."  
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,  
"I gave Him my manger for a bed;  
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head."  
"I," said the cow, all white and red. ...

Thus every beast by some glad spell,  
In the stable dark was glad to tell  
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel,

The gift he gave Emmanuel.

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*





# NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

## BERKS COUNTY GOSPEL JAMBOREE

You are invited to enjoy an evening of praise and worship at the REAL Church, 33 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, on **Saturday, December 1, from 7-8:30 p.m.** Several local worship groups will be participating.

## THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

On **Tuesday, December 11, at 7 p.m.** Dr. Greg Carey, a professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary, will present *The Politics of Christmas* where we will explore how the Gospels' ancient audiences might have resonated with Herod, the magi, the census, the manger, and the shepherds as we prepare for our own Christmas celebrations. Held at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main Street, Kutztown. Food and drink are available for purchase.

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## SMALL PACKAGES, GREAT THINGS

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big—that is, great—things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!



Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

# Thank You

Dear Friends at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Thank you for your generous donation of 11 Quilts and Kits for LWR's distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God's grace and love to people all around the world.

Your Quilts and Kits provide important necessities to our neighbors around the world, and serve as reminders that they are not alone or forgotten. In 2017, we also shipped Quilts and Kits to go to Angola, South Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, India, Lebanon, Serbia, Tanzania, Ukraine, Niger, Mauritania, Jordan, Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, Djibouti, and Georgia. On behalf of our neighbors in villages, schools, hospitals and refugee camps around the world, I extend deepest thanks for your contribution, and pray God's richest blessings on your life and work!

In Christ, *Melanie W. Gibbons, Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager*

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## Did You Know?

### FIVE-POINTED STAR

The star of Bethlehem is often shown as a five-pointed star. Roughly shaped like a human being, it symbolizes Christ's incarnation. It also calls to mind the wise men's journey: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2, NIV).



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This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ. —Frank McKibben

# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

## PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care

**Facilities:** Anna Angstadt, Samuel Behm, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Audrey Hoffman, Leon Moyer, Irene Noll, and Joyce Rothermel.

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

**Members:** Glenn Allen, Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, Erma Guinther, Amanda Herman, John Keck, Sheila Long, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Horace Rothermel, and Dale Schwoyer.

**Friends of the congregation:** Regina B., Thelma Bright, Bill Collins, Evelyn Collins, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Barbara Feeman, Kenny Fink, Eric Fox, Becky Graeff, Corinne Hersh, David Jenkins, Angie Kistler, Joe Klick, Anh La, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Family and friends of Wyatt Newhart, Ken Matz, Michelle Meck, Nancy Meck, Kyle Olinger, Tonya Petersheim, Monica R., Jackson Radcliffe, Mary Lynne Rathman, Jeffrey Schloder, Rayjeana Schultz, Family and friends of Ruth Tabekilis, Bill Trievel, Baby Leah Wiest, Dennis Wright, and Laraine Wuchter.

**OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:** For our nation. For our president, congress and judicial system. For peace in the world and between citizens and those who serve them. For our military personnel serving around the world. For areas enduring fire, drought, storms, flooding, and other disasters, for migrants and refugees and the countries to which they flee.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Millie Berger, Sandy Burkart, Mike Denby, Alice Epler, Katie F., Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Tara K., Janis Kershner, Lauren Kinney, Ethan Kunkel, Michael M., Joanne Pauley, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Tiffany W., Jackie Wagner, and Rachel Woodhead.



**KEEP SEEKING HIM**

## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts October 31, 2018

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 22,278.96
Thrivent	8,231.87
Checking	5,776.73
Youth	404.74
Fidelity	133,850.21
Cash Reserve	13,144.08
Mission Investment	11,341.39
Local Care	<u>1,288.75</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 196,316.39</u></b>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **October 31, 2017** \$ 204,003.58

## October 2018 – 'Actual' vs. 'Required' Income

	Income Required	Actual Income	Difference
<u>Income Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,779.58	\$ 4,750.25	\$ (4,029.33)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2018 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  
\$ 21,352.54 Funds Received to offset expenses

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

How many wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus?

- A. two
- B. three
- C. four
- D. We don't know because the Bible doesn't say.



Answer: D (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

## THE PERFECT GIFT

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said, “Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction.” At Christmas we celebrate God coming to earth to look outward with us in the same direction, from our perspective and experience.

Jesus was an ordinary person: He learned to talk and walk like any toddler, learned a trade from his father and acquired the habits of faith from his family. In adulthood, Jesus experienced life as we all do: the challenge of hard work, grief at a loved one’s death, heartache over oppression and the world’s great needs – but also joy in celebration, fellowship with neighbors and deep friendship.

God personally knows our every experience, emotion and need – because Jesus, while fully divine, lived as a full human being. He has gazed at the world, life and even death from our direction, giving us the perfect Christmas gift:

# L VE!

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## WINTER GIFT

“God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, “Fall to the earth”; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work” (Job 37:507, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. “Snow days” due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We’re granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It’s like a surprise sabbath – the gift of grace-time – when no one’s expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work – his place – in our lives. Praise God for snow day!

– Heidi Mann

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



- 3 Sheila Gehman
- 4 Amber Guinther
- 5 Sarah Bailey
- 5 Donna Guinther
- 6 Pastor Ruth Doty
- 6 Amanda Herman
- 6 Johnathan Kepnach
- 6 Vikie Seyfert
- 9 Helen Fair
- 10 Dawn Wengert
- 11 Jennifer Musser
- 15 Randall Cleaver
- 15 Jared Keiser
- 16 Elwood Cleaver, Jr.
- 18 Harold Guinther
- 20 Sheila Long
- 21 Clinton Allen
- 22 David Moyer
- 26 Marleise Matz
- 31 Lori Eck
- 31 David Wartenluft



- 2 Rodney and Diane Keller (46 years)
- 16 Richard and Dana Musser (29 years)
- 24 George and Jeannette DeLong (58 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. Thank you.*



## STEWARDSHIP FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Many of us cherish everything about the Christmas season—except those incessant advertisements telling us to buy this and by that. We ask, “Where’s Jesus in all this commercialism?”

This is the right question. Though it asks us to examine every aspect of our lives, stewardship also challenges us to question the role money plays in our personal lives and our culture.

Christmas presents are wonderful expressions of love that makes both giver and recipient feel good. At the same time, we want to be wary of advertising’s lure to make us overspend, or to think that the cost of our gift is proportionate to our love.

Most of all, we need to be sure that the main point of our Christmas is not the gifts *we give*, but the gift *we receive* from God – Jesus. Here are some ideas:

- Challenge yourself to spend less for presents this year. Set a budget and stick to it.
- Attend worship regularly in Advent and Christmas.
- Give some handmade presents: A scarf or hat, a photo album, a batch of fudge, a card, a poem.
- Prayerfully read Advent daily devotions (Richard Rohr’s *Preparing for Christmas* is amazing!).
- Give your time: a concert together, a shared meal, a day at a museum, a walk in the woods
- Use an Advent calendar to help you remember all that God has given you.
- Give service: wash a loved one’s car, help clean the garage, paint a room, babysit for an evening.
- Play Christmas music that has religious themes (More “Silent Night,” less “Frosty the Snowman.”)
- Instead of buying a present, make a donation to a charitable organization in honor of your loved one (or check out ELCA Good Gifts!).
- Make a generous year-end contribution to your congregation.

Our thoughtful practices for Advent and Christmas not only make for good stewardship of our time, talents, relationships and money, they also help us to draw near to Our Lord and experience God’s greatest gift to us.

—Rob Blezard

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## **THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **December**

* 2	10:00 AM	First Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion (B)
9	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Advent (B)
* 16	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Advent (B) ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
23	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
* 24	5:00 PM & 9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Services – Holy Communion (W)
30	10:00 AM	First Sunday after Christmas (W)

### **January**

* 6	10:00 AM	Epiphany of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W) ▪ Church Un-decorating
13	10:00 AM	Baptism of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
* 20	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany (G) Faith Formation after worship
27	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany (G)

### **February**

◆ 3	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Holy Communion (G) ▪ Souper Bowl of Giving Breakfast (before worship)
10	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (G) ▪ Faith Formation after worship
* 17	10:00 AM	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (G)
24	10:00 AM	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany (G)

### **FELLOWSHIP DATES:**

- ( \* ) Fellowship after worship  
( ◆ ) Breakfast before worship





## DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
12/2	Sue Schlenker	Gladys Kline	Betty Stump	Gladys Kline
12/9	Josh Keck	Sara Jane Beshore	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Todd Wagaman
12/16	Gladys Kline	Ty Rissmiller	Dale Schwoyer	(sponsor needed)
12/23	TBA	Cindy Rissmiller	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Jane Bennett
12/24 5:00 PM 9:00 PM	Phyllis Fenstermacher TBA	TBA TBA	<i>(sponsor needed)</i> <i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i> <i>(sponsor needed)</i>
12/30	TBA	Ken Keck	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Lloyd and Linda Moyer

**ALTAR GUILD:** *(volunteer needed)*

**CHILDREN'S BULLETINS:** *(sponsor needed)*

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** George and Jeannette DeLong

**COMMUNION BREAD:** 12/2 – *(sponsor needed)*; 12/24 (5:00 PM) – *(sponsor needed)*;  
(9:00 PM) – *(sponsor needed)*

**COMMUNION SET-UP:** 12/2 – *(volunteer needed)*; 12/24 (5:00 PM) – *(volunteer needed)*;  
(9:00 PM) – *(volunteer needed)*

**COUNCILPERSON:** Josh Keck

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



# DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 First Sunday in Advent ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship	3 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Shoo-fly Pie Bake---->	4 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal Shoo-fly Pie Bake---->	5 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Shoo-fly Pie Bake---->	6	7 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8
9 Second Sunday in Advent	10 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting Special Shoo-fly Pie Bake	11 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm-Theology w/ a Twist, Kutztown Tavern 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	13	14 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	15
16 Third Sunday in Advent ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship 	17 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	18 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon, Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	20	21 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  WINTER BEGINS	22
23 Fourth Sunday in Advent ▪ Christmas Decorating from blue to white	24 <u>Christmas Eve Services</u> 5:00pm-Family 9:00pm-Traditional ▪ Holy Communion and Fellowship at both Services OFFICE CLOSED	25 Christmas Day 	26 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	27	28 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29
30 First Sunday after Christmas ▪ Lessons & Carols Service	31 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  NEW YEAR'S EVE	OFFICE CLOSED				

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Visitors from Saxony, Germany



The Northeastern PA Synod is blessed with four Companion Synods—a special relationship with the Lutheran Christians in five countries. These are Argentina and Uruguay; Slovenia; Tanzania; and Saxony, Germany. From October 4 to 15, we had the privilege of hosting 15 of our brothers and sisters from Saxony, Germany. The visitors ranged in age from 17 to “older”.

While our visitors were in our Synod, they were each hosted by two different families—one in the Mountain Top area of the Synod and one in the greater Reading area.

From the moment they arrived on the 4th, the visitors had a very full agenda. Some of the opportunities provided to our brothers and sisters from Saxony were:

- worship with their host families,
- a retreat with our Saxony Committee to develop a covenant,
- going to a high school (American) football game,
- spending 2 days in New York City,
- a day in Philadelphia,
- a trip to Amish country,
- and a pig roast.

Of course they did get some down time too!



In order to host a group of this size, it takes the commitment and dedication of many people. A special “Thank You” goes to the host families and our synod’s Saxony committee. A extra special thank you goes to Pastors Wayne and Michele Kaufman.



## Final Reminder: Monthly Mailing to Be Sent Using Email

In an effort to be more faithful stewards both of the synod's financial resources and of the earth God has entrusted to our care, the synod "Monthly Mailing" will no longer be reproduced on paper and mailed through the post office.

**Beginning with the January 2019 mailing**, materials will be emailed to each congregation and also posted for download on the synod website.

**For this to work, it is important that each congregation have a current email on file with the synod office. If your congregation is not receiving the weekly E-News (sent out on Tuesday mornings), it is probably best if you contact us at [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com) with the email you wish to use for the monthly materials.**

If your congregation does not use email, please recruit a member who does have an email address to receive your materials, and forward that address to the synod.

The synod recognizes that it may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this transition. If you have any questions about what you need to do, please contact the synod at [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com) or 610-266-5101.

## Grace, Reading Back to School Giveaway



The lazy days of summer maybe the norm for some people, but not for the congregation and supporters of Grace, Reading's Back to School Event. For the past four years Grace has hosted this event at their location on the southern side of Reading.

This community project started when four congregation volunteers agreed to assist on a project suggested by Rita Wilk at church council. Rita's dream was to hold an event open to all community members, where needed school supplies and backpacks could be given out to students. Donations were obtained from Grace members along with other churches within the West Berks Mission District. Reaching the targeted recipients was simplified by piggybacking on the resources established by our Growing with Grace Tutoring program. This tutoring program serves two elementary schools located within a few blocks of the church.

In its infancy, this one-day event reached about 120 students with new and used backpacks / bags filled with school supplies. A limited amount of new underwear was given out as well.

To make a greater impact, additional funds were needed to expand the number of backpacks and supplies offered. Over the last three years, grants have been written and granted from Thrivent, Walmart, and the NEPA Synod (your Mission Support dollars at work).

Read more online at <http://nepasynod.org/grace-reading-backpacks>.

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Order Your  
**Poinsettias**



To order red poinsettias for Christmas, please return this form with your payment to the church office by Sunday, December 9th. Cost is \$10.00 per 6-inch pot. Thank you!

Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 Total \_\_\_\_\_



***PLEASE PRINT:***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

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