

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Office Phone: 610-682-6064

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon



**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,

Here comes February, with lots of things to celebrate, particularly love:

the love of courageous leaders for our nation;
romantic love which, some say, makes the world go round; and
Love so deep, so broad, so high that it is beyond our thought and fantasy.

Here comes February! Let's celebrate love!

And here comes Lent! "Oh," some would say, "that's a downer! Better whoop it up at Mardi Gras and eat Fastnachts on Shrove Tuesday because here come 6 weeks of . . . , of what?" Six weeks of what? Preparation for the joy of Easter!

The word "lent" actually means "spring," when bulbs and sprouts which have been growing underground start to poke through softened earth and venture forth into the sunlight. And that's what Lent is about: the discipline of growing in faith so that the meaning of Easter bursts forth and lasts longer than the blossom of a flower.

This year the Christian churches in the Brandywine community will again share Lenten services. The theme will be: "I Love to Tell the Story: The Challenging Parables of Jesus." In Lent we recognize that we need to hear the stories of the faith community over and over, even, and maybe especially, when they challenge our ways of thinking and living. It may be hard to listen to and discuss them, but they do help to break up the hardened soil of our hearts and minds. By their challenge they open us up to receive and share love in its many expressions, God's love.

New Jerusalem will be the host for two services on Good Friday: one at 2 p.m. and another at 7 p.m. We've added the afternoon service so that those who are concerned about driving after dark have a chance to worship. Please note also that Christ Mertz will have 11 a.m. services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday and that The Lutheran Home at Topton will have services at 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday afternoon. All are welcome at any of these! See page 4 and page 8 for details.

Here comes February! Please join us in deliberately taking time to be challenged to grow in faith and to receive and express God's love. Watch for other suggestions for ways to do this or just ask. Planting some flower bulbs in pots indoors might be one way to help you remember that just as these bulbs need soil, water and light to come forth, your relationship with God needs a medium (community, Bible study, worship, etc.) in which to grow, prayer (water) and exposure to Sonlight.

God's love is deep and broad and high. It may be greater than our thought and fantasy, but God wants us to experience and grow in it. May this February be a time for growth in love, God's love!

Pastor Ruth





WORSHIP & MUSIC INFORMATION

FEBRUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS – We are in need of a Flower sponsor for February 15; a Bulletin sponsor for February 8; a Children’s Bulletin sponsor; a Sanctuary Candle sponsor; a Communion Bread sponsor for February 15; a Communion Set-up volunteer for February 15; and volunteers to light the Altar Candles for February 1, 8, 15, and 22. Thank you!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – Join us on Sunday, February 1, for our Souper Bowl breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. We will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items to be donated to the Brandywine Food Pantry. A free-will offering will also be taken. Help feed the hungry! Sunday, February 8, at 8:30 a.m. will be the snow date if there is inclement weather and church needs to be cancelled.



There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex if you would like to donate any food items for the breakfast. Thank you!



BOY SCOUT SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, February 8. The Boy Scouts of Troop and Pack 585 will take part in our worship service. We hope you can join us in supporting these young men and their leaders.

2014 ANNUAL REPORTS are available on the table in the narthex. If you are unable to pick one up and would like to have a copy, please contact the church office and we will mail one to you.

END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS – Financial contribution statements for the year ending 2014 have been mailed out to members of New Jerusalem. Please notify the church office if you have not received yours. Thank you!



175th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SERVICES

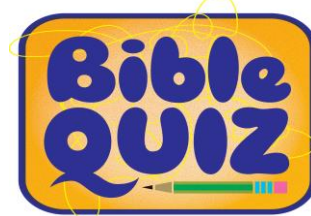
Mark your calendars! The celebration services will take place on Sunday, April 19, 2015, and Sunday, October 4, 2015. Bishop Zeiser has accepted an invitation to attend the April 19th service.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED! Do you have any photographs (old or new) from New Jerusalem that you would like to share? We would like to use them for our 175th Anniversary Celebration. If you would like to share any of your photos, you can mail them to the church office. All photos will be returned. Thank you for your help!

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of June B. (Gambler) Boyer who passed away on January 18, 2015.



CHURCH DIRECTORY – An update to the member directory is being prepared. Please notify the church office if there are any corrections to your address, phone number, or email. Thank you!



In 2 Peter 1:16-18, the apostle Peter writes about being on a mountain with Jesus when something unusual happened. Christ, Peter says, received honor and glory from God the Father. Peter, James and John were all eyewitnesses of his majesty. To what event was Peter referring?

- A. Jesus’ baptism
- B. Jesus’ transfiguration
- C. Jesus’ crucifixion
- D. Jesus’ resurrection

The answer can be found in Mark 9:1-10.

Answer: B

Why Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.



First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



February 18 – Ash Wednesday

11:00 a.m. - Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville

2:30 p.m. – Lutheran Home at Topton

7:00 p.m. – Hope Lutheran, Bowers

February 25 – Lenten Midweek

7:00 p.m. – St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown

Topic: The Seed and the Sower

March 4 – Lenten Midweek

7:00 p.m. – New Jerusalem UCC

Topic: Lost Coin and Lost Sheep

March 11 – Lenten Midweek

7:00 p.m. – Christian Congregation

Topic: Working in the Vineyard

March 18 – Lenten Midweek

7:00 p.m. – Hope Lutheran, Bowers

Topic: Good Samaritan

March 25 – Lenten Midweek

7:00 p.m. – Longswamp UCC, Mertztown

Topic: The Wheat and the Weeds

April 1 – Holy Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers

Topic: The Prodigal Son

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

11:00 a.m. – Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville

2:30 p.m. – Lutheran Home at Topton

7:00 p.m. – Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville

April 3 – Good Friday

2:00 p.m. – New Jerusalem Lutheran

2:30 p.m. – Lutheran Home at Topton

7:00 p.m. – New Jerusalem Lutheran

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts
December 31, 2014**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 27,989.30
Thrivent	5,936.94
Checking	11,593.38
Youth	966.19
Fidelity	169,891.47
Cash Reserve	24,500.13
Endowment CD	11,150.48

**December 2014 — ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’
Income**

	<u>Income Required</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Delta</u>
Income Used For:	<u>Per Month</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$9,787.08	\$9,048.30	(\$738.78)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2014 Budget
Passed by Congregation*



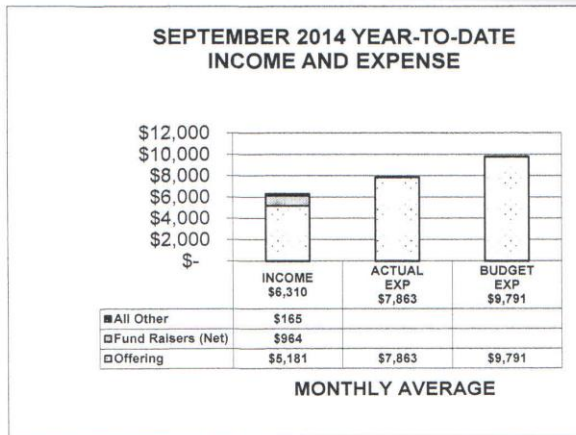
LOAVES AND FISHES group is sponsoring a free community meal to be held on Tuesday, February 17, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 121 S. Home Avenue, Topton. Everyone is welcome!

“SOUPER” BOWL PUB NIGHT – The winner of the Super Bowl will be determined, but you can still pick your favorite soup at our “Souper Bowl” event! Enjoy a variety of different soups while chatting with our residents. Thursday, February 26, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at The Lutheran Home at Topton.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Please pray for: *(current list)* Anna Angstadt, Dallas Angstadt, Cliff Barlet, Bertha Bennecoff, Family and friends of June Boyer, Jean Deysher, Ted Eshbach, Karl Fenstermacher, Erma Guinther, Amanda Herman, Paul Hertzog, Sheila Long, Mary Merkel, Linda Moyer, Lloyd Moyer, Harvey Noll, Irene Noll, Mildred Reinert, Warren Reinhart, Dale Schwoyer, Betty Stoudt, Arlene Yob, Baby Lydia, Ilona Betts, Jolyn Blankenbiller, Brian Collins, Shirley Diaz, Marilyn Franzi, Myles Hansbury, Corinne Hersh, Lauren Kinney, Patricia Noll, Lananh Rissmiller, Russell Roeder, Family and friends of Alan Romig, Andrew S., Jerry Schwambach, Tom Spraut, Jack Stoudt, Frances Walter, Leslie Wegman, Cindy Wilt, for all our military personnel serving around the world, those affected by the Ebola outbreak, and peace in the world, especially the Middle East and the Ukraine.

(long-term) Baby Adelene, Samuel Behm, Evelyn Collins, Shirley Hertzog, Erma Noll, Ralph Harris, Mae Hertzog, Jack Krause, Josh S., Theresa S., Karen W., Veronica White, Elise Barlet, Major Jeromy Guinther, and the mission of our church.



**CALENDAR YEAR 2014 INFORMATION
NORMAL OPERATIONS
(DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)**

	<u>Sep Y-T-D</u>	<u>Average Month</u>
Income		
Offering	\$ 46,631	\$ 5,181
Fund Raisers	\$ 8,675	964
Other	\$ 1,483	165
Total Income	\$ 56,788	6,310
Actual Exp	\$ 70,767	7,863
Budget Exp	\$ 88,121	9,791
Shortage *	\$ (31,333)	(3,481)

*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2014 BUDGET Expense

How the Boy Scouts Came to America

In 1909, Chicago publisher William Boyce was visiting London. Late one afternoon the city was enshrouded in heavy fog. Boyce lost his bearings in the murk and was approached by a boy of about 12 carrying a lantern. The boy offered to guide Boyce to the address he was seeking.



When Boyce produced a shilling, the boy replied, "No, sir, I am a scout. Scouts do not accept tips for good turns."

That comment piqued Boyce's curiosity. He wanted to learn more about scouting in Britain, so the boy took him to the British Scout headquarters. He was so enthralled with what he heard there, that he decided to get scouting started in America.

Churches with a Scout troop, whether for boys or girls, are blessed by the troop's presence. They perform valuable service projects, learn and practice good values, health and survival techniques, discipline, and helpfulness toward others.

Let us offer scouts are gratitude when we see them helping the handicapped, assisting the elderly, directing the flow of church traffic, repairing or painting church property, and assisting us in many and various ways. We all benefit by their presence.

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS – In the event that Church and Sunday School need to be cancelled, you can listen to WFMZ, WAEB 790 AM, or watch Channel 69 news. You may also call the

church office at 610-682-6064 and there will be a recording on the answering machine on Sunday morning if any services or events are cancelled. We also encourage you to call a member or guest that may not have heard about the cancellation.

Valentine

My heart overflows with love,
Fashioned in our courtship
Planted in our marriage
Blossoming in our children.



A love that has been
Pruned by life's realities and
Strengthened by its triumphs.

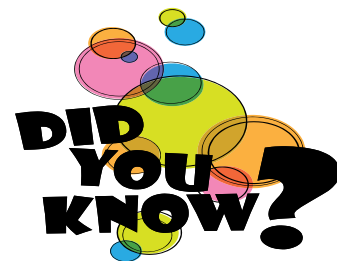
A love that has grown because the
Responsibility and freedom
To give and to receive
Have been shared.

A love that continues to seek its Source
In the sunshine of
God's Love –

For it is there that we find
Our reason for being and
Our reason for loving!

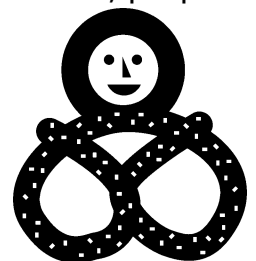
- Peggy Ferrell

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



Pretzels for Lent

The common pretzel was originally designed for use during Lent. Sometime during the Middle Ages, when Lent was accompanied by strict bans on dairy products and meat, people subsisted largely on breads, pastries, soups and vegetables. Bakers in Germany decided to create a food that would even look religious – the pretzel. The crossed arms of a pretzel represent a Christian in prayer. Place the palm of each hand on the opposite shoulder, so that your forearms cross. That's the shape of a pretzel.



Thoughts about the Transfiguration

In Matthew 17, we read about Jesus' taking James and John up to the top of a high mountain. It was there that Jesus suddenly appeared to have a different countenance. He was transfigured, his body taking on a glow. Matthew writes: 'His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white' (Matthew 17:2, NRSV).



Not only did his friends observe that amazing change but they heard a voice saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' (17:5).

What happened then? Those fellows did what many of us would have done. They fell to the ground overcome by fear. But they stayed there until Jesus came and touched them. He told them not to be afraid. Then, after they had settled down a bit, he led them down the mountain.

What does that experience say to us? Certainly it shows that Jesus is the unique Son of God. We might call this even the ordination of Jesus.
Reprinted from The Newsletter Newsletter



Thank you, members of New Jerusalem and Church Council, for the thoughtful gift cards and other treasures I received for Christmas. Serving with you is a privilege. Your many expressions of care and appreciation are added pleasures. Joy and peace for the New Year! – *Pastor Ruth*



To the Church Council and people of New Jerusalem ELC: Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia and the gift card. They are greatly appreciated and I thank you for your thoughtfulness. God bless you all. – *Faye Dey*



To Council Members and the Congregation of New Jerusalem: Thank you very much for the gift card and other goodies I received for Christmas. Your thoughtfulness means a lot to me. I wish everyone a happy new year. – *Korinne Hotzman*



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS Phillip Litschke and Daniel and Joanne Pauley who joined New Jerusalem Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 25.



- 2 Linda Moyer
- 3 Robert Keller
- 4 Jean Deysher
- 4 Courtney Mengel
- 8 Kevin Stump
- 11 Beatrice Barlet
- 15 Steve Fox
- 21 Nicholas Eck
- 22 Katie Ellen Cleaver
- 25 Jason Beshore
- 26 Michael Fair
- 27 Justin Keller
- 28 Jeannette DeLong



- 2 John and Pat Keck (57 years)
- 28 Paul and Shirley Hertzog (56 years)

THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February

◆ 1	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany—Holy Communion (G) ▪ Souper Bowl Sunday (breakfast)
* 8	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany (G) ▪ Boy Scout Sunday
*15	10:00 AM	Transfiguration of Our Lord—Holy Communion (W)
18		<u>Ash Wednesday</u> —Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (P)
	11:00 AM	Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
	2:30 PM	Lutheran Home at Topton
	7:00 PM	Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers
22	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent (P)
25	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown

March

* 1	10:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent—Holy Communion (P)
4	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek - New Jerusalem UCC
8	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent (P)
11	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek - Christian Congregation, Mertztown
*15	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent (P)
18	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek - Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers
22	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent (P)
25	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek - Longswamp UCC, Mertztown
*29	10:00 AM	Sunday of the Passion—Holy Communion (P)

April

1	7:00 PM	Holy Wednesday - Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers
2		<u>Maundy Thursday</u>
	11:00 AM	Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
	2:30 PM	Lutheran Home at Topton
	7:00 PM	Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
3		<u>Good Friday</u>
	2:00 PM	New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
	2:30 PM	Lutheran Home at Topton
	7:00 PM	New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
5	10:00 AM	Resurrection of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
*12	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Easter (W) 175 th Anniversary Service of the Original Laying of the Cornerstone (Bishop Zeiser attending)
*26	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Easter (W)

FELLOWSHIP DATES:

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



GOD'S

SWEET WORD

Share this Bible treat — and God's love — with a special valentine.

What you need:

- Black card stock or construction paper (2" x 1.5")
- Double-sided tape
- 2 wrapped Hershey's Nuggets candy bars (silver or gold)
- Pen or marker
- White paper (2.75" x 1")
- Thin sliver of red paper or ribbon
- Scissors

What you do:

1. In the center of the black paper, tape down the candy bars side by side.
2. On the white paper, write a short Bible verse about love. Then wrap it around the candy bars horizontally and tape it down.
3. Place the red paper or ribbon between the two candy bars, and tape the top of this "bookmark" to the Bible.
4. Give away this fun, sweet message of God's love!

Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.

mercy and

"And what

To act

humbly with

does the LORD

Micah 6:8, NIV

justly and

to love

to walk

require of you?

your God."

"

_____ ? _____

_____ " _____ 6:8 _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

FEBRUARY SERVICE ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETERS	READERS	ALTAR CANDLES	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
2/1	Betty Stump	Roy Merkel	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Don & Erma Gajewski	Don & Erma Gajewski
2/8	Virginia Guinther	Sara Jane Beshore	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Dennis & Beulah Miller	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
2/15	Denny Beshore	Gladys Kline	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Elwood Cleaver
2/22	Sheila Long	Roy Merkel	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	George DeLong	Virginia Guinther

ALTAR GUILD: Sara Jane Beshore

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: *(sponsor needed)*

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION BREAD: 2/1 – Sara Jane Beshore; 2/15 – *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION SET-UP: 2/1 – Sara Jane Beshore; 2/15 – *(volunteer needed)*

COUNCIL PERSON: Dawn Wengert, 610-914-2495

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

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4th Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Souper Bowl (breakfast before worship) ▪ Annual Meeting (snow date)	2	3 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	4 5:30pm-Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00pm-175 th Anniversary Celebration Committee Meeting	5	6	7
8 5 th Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Boy Scout Sunday ▪ Fellowship after worship	9 7:00pm-Finance Committee Mtg.	10 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	11	12	13	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord/6 th Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship 	16 7:00pm-Council Mtg.  Presidents' Day	17 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	18 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon @ White Palm Tavern <u>Ash Wednesday Services</u> 11:00am-Christ Mertz 2:30pm-Lutheran Home 7:00pm-Hope, Bowers	19	20	21
22 1 st Sunday in Lent	23	24 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	25 <u>Lenten Midweek Service</u> 7:00pm-St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown	26	27	28