

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net

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

Office Phone: 610.682.6064

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

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



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.*



This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

John 3:16 The Message Bible

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

When we think of February, we think of hearts.

The American Heart Association promotes February as National Heart Month. Before the New Year's celebrations were over, the local Dollar Tree was putting out Valentines.

John 3:16 reminds us that God's heart is filled to overflowing with love. While we know what it is to love a number of individuals, a group, an organization, and a country, God loves the whole world. God loves the whole world, not just in general, but loves each individual plant and creature, grain of sand and drop of water. God loves those I know as well as those I don't know and may not even know exist.

The heart is responsible for pumping blood throughout the body, making sure every cell is fed, cleaned and repaired so that the body can grow and stay healthy. Maybe we can think of the church as God's heart, responsible for pumping God's love throughout the world, helping every "cell" of God's creation be what it was meant to be.

Just as the heart itself cannot touch every cell but has to pump the blood to do the work, we as individuals, as a congregation, and as a wider church cannot touch every soul. We can, however, do our share as part of that heart muscle. We cannot feed and clothe and provide shelter to each person in the world, but we can and do provide items for the food bank and funds for ELCA Good Gifts/ELCA World Hunger. We cannot shelter every cold person, but we make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and scarves and hats for seafarers. We can give to Lutheran Disaster Response to help those whose homes have been destroyed from wind, water, storm and fire so they can rebuild not only a dwelling, but their lives. We cannot give the gift of peace to every child, but we can help put a smile on their faces with gifts for Christmas and we can work through our legislators to insist on peace and justice. These gifts we offer get "pumped" around our community and around the globe.

Just as the different muscles that make up the heart must beat in rhythm, must expand and contract in a coordinated way, we as individuals and the church must learn to beat in rhythm. This is why our local exploration of ministries we can do together (aka Congregation Conversations) is so exciting. This is why our participation in Synod Assembly and in opportunities like Learning Ministries Day, the Confirmand Retreat and our East Berks Mission District are so important.

Each cell of the heart muscle must also be fed, cleaned and repaired by the same blood that it pushes through the body. In the same way, we as individuals, a congregation and the church need to read God's word and need to gather together to literally hear God's voice more clearly while it cleans out the misunderstandings and even evil that can try to grow in us. We need the support for growth that only God's voice heard and experienced through others can bring. Through worship we also experience what it means to be part of "something grand," something that is life changing for us and for others.

God's heart is filled to overflowing with love. Jesus is God's valentine to us. May this letter also be a valentine from me to you, expressing how much I love how each of you and this congregation, how much I appreciate how you only "pump" the love you have received from God not only outside our congregation, but also within it, also to me. Thank you.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our council meeting on January 13:

- Pastor Ruth attended the Extravagant Generosity workshop on January 10-11 and shared with council some of what she learned.
- The members' end-of-year contribution statements have been mailed out. Hopefully everyone has received their copy.
- Pastor Ruth, Justin Keller and his mentor, Josh Keck, will be attending the Confirmation Retreat at Bear Creek Camp March 13-15.
- Denny Beshore from Finance has been asked to gather information about the company, Vanco, which provides a number of methods for members to donate through electronic payments.

FEBRUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Bulletin sponsors for February 2, 16, and 23; Children's Bulletin sponsor; Sanctuary Candle sponsor; Communion Bread and Set-up for February 23; and an Altar Guild volunteer. We also need Greeters for February 2 and 23. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex if you can help. Thank you!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING BREAKFAST

Join us for our Souper Bowl of Caring breakfast on **Sunday, February 2**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. We will be collecting non-perishable canned goods and taking a free-will offering for the Brandywine Food Pantry. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex if you are able to donate any items for the breakfast.

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY – February 2

The Boy Scouts from Troop #585 will be joining us on Sunday, February 2, for our Souper Bowl of Caring breakfast and worship as we celebrate Boy Scout Sunday. The scouts will be serving as ushers, greeters, and readers at our worship service. Please join us to support these young men and their leaders.

BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join us for Bible Study on **Thursdays, February 6 and 27, at 10:00 a.m.**

ANNUAL MEETING

New Jerusalem's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 9**, immediately following the worship service. The agenda for the Annual Meeting includes the election of council members and representatives to the Synod Assembly, approval of changes to the Congregation Constitution, approval of changes to the Cemetery Board Constitution, and the presentation of annual reports. A quorum of **25 voting members is needed**. Please invite other members and be sure to join us. If there is inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16.

ELECTING OUR NEXT BISHOP

This June we will elect a new bishop for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. In preparation, members of congregations are invited to attend one of the following meetings at which they will discuss synod mission priorities and the skills/spiritual gifts needed in the next synod bishop:

February 1: Bern Lutheran Church, 820 W. Leesport Road, Leesport (north of Reading on Route 183)

February 8: Christ Lutheran Church, 467 Main Street, Conyngham

February 15: Lutheran Church, 5500 Route 873, Schnecksville

All meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. – Noon.

Information gathered at the three meetings will be collated and reported back at three meetings to be held in May (dates to be announced). Rostered ministers and members of synod congregations are encouraged to attend.

THREADS FOR OTHERS

If you can or would like to learn how to sew, crochet, knit, or help with things like ironing or cutting material, come join us as we make items to help others. One project we are working on is simple dresses for young girls in Third World countries. If the girls look cared for they are less likely to be kidnapped or trafficked. On Wednesday, January 15, we cut out 60+ dresses we will be sewing together. You can help with this or one of

the other projects we have going. You can also bring whatever you are working on. We are enjoying fellowship while giving service.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 2:30-6:00 p.m. Come when you can and stay as long as you want. We meet in the basement of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church (handicap accessible). Our next gatherings will be on **Wednesday February 5, and Wednesday, February 19**. If the weather is in question, contact Sara Jane at 610-987-9214 or Pastor Ruth at 484-553-1162.

PASTOR RUTH will be out of town from **Monday, February 17 to Monday, February 24**. If you would require pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Tom Lang at 610.944.8388 or 215.527.4213.

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the March 2020 newsletter is **Sunday, February 23**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

POTLUCK SUPPER AND MOVIE

Join us for a Potluck Supper and Movie on **Saturday, February 29, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

We will again be joining together with various churches belonging to the Brandywine Ministerium to celebrate Lent. The services begin each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Listed below is the tentative schedule for Ash Wednesday and the Midweek Lenten services for the month of March.

February 26	Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Communion St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown Preacher: Pastor Cheryl Meinschein
March 4	Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville Preacher: Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman
March 11	Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton Preacher: Pastor Roger Ulrich
March 18	Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty
March 25	Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers Preacher: Pastor Laura Stoneback

FAITH FORMATION EVENT

The next Faith Formation event is scheduled for **Sunday, March 8, beginning at 12 noon**.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Winter weather delays and closings for our worship services can be found on radio stations WFMZ, WAEB 790 AM, on Channel 69 news, or by calling the church office at 610.682.6064 where a recorded message will let you know whether a service or event has been cancelled.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

At our last meeting of reps from 7 local congregations, we:

- Made tentative plans for Lenten worship
- Updated the community calendar
- Updated information on the Food Bank
- Continued to work on and explore
 - How to restart Loaves and Fishes
 - How to better coordinate blood drives
 - Joint music ministries
 - Ways to get involved in local rebuild and repair projects and mission trips
 - Setting up CPR, First Aid, Food Safety, and ALICE training locally (ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate and refers for training on what to do when an active shooter or other person who would cause harm is present.)

How good, exciting and creative it is when God's people work together!

The next meeting of the congregations will take place on **Tuesday, March 10, at 4:30 p.m.** at New Jerusalem. You are always welcome to join us.

YARD SHARE IS BACK

Thinking it's time to clean out stuff? Our next yard share will be **Saturday, April 25**. Donations can be brought to the church starting the day after Easter. Able to help with the sorting, especially on April 18? Willing to donate some baked goods? Speak with Ken, Ty, Josh, or Betty. More details to follow.

A SAFETY NOTE FROM OUR STATE TROOPERS

When writing the date this year, **always write out the full year "2020."** While we're used to writing the last two digits as in 12/12/19 – it's dangerous to do that this year since if we wrote 1/6/20 it could easily be changed to 1/6/2019 or any other year in the 21st century. Law enforcement has already seen problems, so be forewarned and be careful.

GOOD GIFTS CHANGE LIVES

Through the generosity of our members, contributions of over \$600 to the ELCA Good Gifts will send the following across our nation and around the world:

- ♥ 2 roosters
- ♥ 30 chicks
- ♥ 3 pigs
- ♥ Food for one refugee family
- ♥ 1 set of school supplies
- ♥ 2 shares of a cow
- ♥ 10 fruit trees
- ♥ 2 goats
- ♥ 1 set of honeybees
- ♥ 1 water filter
- ♥ 3 backpacks of food
- ♥ 3 sets of bibles



Thank you for these life changing gifts.

NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

SOUP AND SANDWICH SALE

St. Peter's UCC, Topton, will be selling Chicken Corn Noodle soup and Ham and Cheese sandwiches on **Saturday, February 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** To order, please call 610.682.7633 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on **Saturday, February 15, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** Funds will be raised for the 3rd Feed the Need Packing Project to be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Tickets cost \$5.00 per person and will be available after January 20.

SPIRIT ON TAP

Marcia Rowe presents "Dances of Universal Peace" on **Tuesday, February 18, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn Street, Reading. Spirit on Tap's purpose is to encourage theological discussion, explore alternative views, and stimulate dialogue around issues of faith and spirituality. There is no charge and all are welcome. For more information, contact Dr. Harry Serio at 610.944.7032 or HLSerio@aol.com.

GIRLS HELPING GIRLS. PERIOD.

Girls and women in communities all across the United States and around the world are missing school and work because they simply can't afford basic necessities to help them feel clean, necessities like tampons and pads. Those items are not covered by food stamps and some families are forced to cut back or choose between other critical purchases. It is calculated that one in five teenagers in the U.S. misses school and/or extracurricular activities because they don't have access to the basic feminine hygiene products.

A Berks County program called Girls Supporting Girls. Period. believes feminine hygiene is a matter of basic health *and* human dignity. Members are dedicated to educating people on the need and collecting and distributing products. They give their clients a full year's supply of products and are spreading the word that it is easy to help. This program is part of a national and international program working to address "period poverty."

The U.S. organization, Girls Helping Girls. Period., was started in December 2014 by sisters Emma Joy, 16, and her sister Quinn, 12, in South Orange, NJ and collects tampons and sanitary napkins for needy women and girls near their community. Other organizations may be known by names such as Helping Women Period. All are part of a response to increasing international awareness of challenges that girls and women face.

We at New Jerusalem are going to collect feminine hygiene products during March and September. Those who would prefer to make donations of cash or check to New Jerusalem to assist in this project are asked to clearly designate they are for "Girls Helping Girls. Period." These funds will be used to buy more products. One of our members will take what is collected to local programs which can distribute them to individuals. Providing what may seem like a basic necessity can truly change lives.

Our thanks to those who are bringing the need to our attention and seeking to dispel the stigma that is often associated with a basic health need.

"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, it's what you are expected to give — which is everything."

—Vittorio Alfieri



**ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ISSUES PASTORAL
MESSAGE ON IRAN CONFLICT**

1/9/2020 12:35:00 PM

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

The current crisis between the United States and Iran is worrisome for many of us in our church, in our nation and in the world. Our country and Iran need urgently to find ways to resolve our differences through a de-escalation of the current crisis, using diplomacy and other peaceful means. Armed conflict and war are always tragic for those directly involved and often as well for civilians, who also may suffer under punitive sanctions. These situations are evidence of broken relationships. Our social statement, "[For Peace in God's World](#)," offers guidance:

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America share with the Church of Jesus Christ in all times and places the calling to be peacemakers The basis of the Church's peace-calling is in God's final peace, the peace of God's eternal reign. That calling is to proclaim the Gospel of God's final peace and to work for earthly peace.

For our part, we have a window of opportunity to stop the current conflict before it worsens. We should appeal now to our elected officials to pursue the path of dialogue and diplomacy with Iran — for our sake, for the sake of the people of Iran and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement.

—St. Augustine

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care

Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Leon Moyer, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT

Members: Myles Angstadt, Kathy Bailey, Dallas Bennecoff, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, Patricia Keck, Penny Keller, Phillip Litschke, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Joanne Pauley, Joyce Rothermel, Sue Schlenker, Gary and Vikie Seyfert, and Dawn Wartzenuft.

Friends of the congregation: Harold Aulenbach, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Carson Bosma, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mark Derr, Gary DeWees, Randy Dreibelbis, Denise Ebelhar, Jennifer Engle, Eric Fox, Kevin Greenawalt, Ivan Gromling, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Corinne Hersh, Clair Hunsinger, Johnson-Agiri Family, Denise Keim, Sue Kerny, Emily Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, Cayden Kresge, Anh La, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Doris Meadway, Rodney Muthard, Duane Peterscheim, Ruth Ramsey, Roger Schollenberger, Patricia Sigfried, The Spatz family, Leticia Weaver, Diane Whitehead, Althea Young, Barry, and Pat.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for our nation: our president, congress and judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end for 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: Millie Berger, Sandy Burkart, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, David Jenkins, Janis Kershner, Michael M., Michelle Meck, Philip and Nancy Meck, Tonya Peterscheim, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Jacqi Wagner, and Leah Wiest.

“A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.”

—Denis Waitley

February BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Linda Moyer
- 3 Robert Keller
- 4 Courtney Mengel
- 6 Lillian Lambert
- 8 Kevin Stump
- 11 Beatrice Barlet
- 15 Steve Fox
- 18 Caleb Keller
- 22 Katie Ellen Cleaver
- 25 Sherrie Carl
- 25 Jason Beshore
- 26 Jarrett Hahn
- 27 Justin Keller
- 28 Jeannette DeLong

STEWARD YOUR LIFE: CULTIVATE A HEART OF LOVE

Jesus taught, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:43-45a

Red hearts, flowers and chocolates remind us that February is the uncontested month of love.

It's excellent (and easy) to love those close to us, but Jesus tells us to go wider, deeper, riskier – to love even our enemies. In so doing, Jesus says, we become children of God.

This challenges us to embrace love as the key discipline and develop a heart so full of love that it flows to even our enemies. Isn't that how we're supposed to live as disciples? It's just good stewardship of our lives.

For this "month of love," practice loving your enemies.

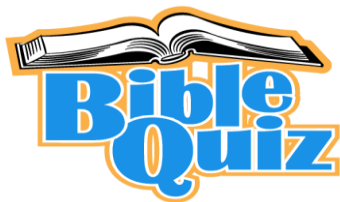
The effort is especially timely in our season of discord, when our loudest voices encourage us – through name-calling, denigrating, lying, smearing – to hate those with whom we disagree. Even calling them "enemies" is too much (they're really neighbors!).

Loving our "enemies" doesn't mean we agree with them or tolerate bad behavior. It means respecting, listening, discussing, refraining from anger and revenge. Here are some ideas for loving our enemies:

- Jesus gives us the first step: Pray! For them and for you!
- Stop seeing them as enemies. They're our neighbors whom God loves.
- Resist hate, the very thing our culture encourages.
- Treat everyone as you would want to be treated.
- Lastly, keep praying.

By embracing love as a spiritual discipline, we cultivate a heart of love that opens our lives to the transformation Jesus dearly desires for us -- to be children of God. Now that's good stewardship.

—Rob Blezard



The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900



Answer: C



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends, we are writing to acknowledge your gift to The Salvation Army of Reading in the amount of \$60. What a wonderful gift! Thank you for your generosity on behalf of others in this community. Our work and ministry to families and individuals who are in great need is an ongoing concern to us, not only during the holidays when we're most visible, but all year long. Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to lift others from the depths of poverty. Without you, we couldn't help others. You are truly a valued partner! May God richly bless you. – Yours, in service to Christ, *Darren and Joy Mudge, Majors Corps Commanding Officers*



Dear Members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you for your generous donation of 7 new handstitched cross-stitched quilts and 1 new crocheted blanket for the Nurse Family Partnership of Berks County which serves 254 low-income families. Your donation is most appreciated and we are grateful for your support of our organization and this valuable program which provides services to families in need. – Sincerely, *Barbara Werner, Chief Executive Officer*



Dear “Knitters” of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church and Pastor Ruth Doty, thank you so much for sending us 19 hats and 9 scarves just in time for our Christmas at Sea Initiative this month. Your handiwork will not only warm the heads and necks of very cold seafarers, but their hearts as well as they receive the unconditional love of Jesus that you provided. Thank you so much and a continued Merry Christmas to you. – Peace, *Pastor Marsh Drege, Director Seafarer’s International House*

Note: These items are always welcome, so keep those fingers busy. Want to learn more? Ask Phyllis, Betty, or Sara Jane.



Dear Members and Friends of New Jerusalem, thank you so much for all your Christmas cards, gifts, and goodies that I received. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. May you all have a wonderful new year filled with hope, love, and

peace. – Blessings for the new year, *Korinne Hotzman, Administrative Assistant*



Dear Friends at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, during this time of joy and reflection, please accept my most heartfelt appreciation of your commitment to Africa. You are bringing opportunity to the people of East Africa and making an incredible impact.

One story of success that you have helped to make happen is Agness Joseph. Agness just finished her education with an Operation Bootstrap Africa sponsorship and is now a teacher at a very poor, urban school. Agness experienced firsthand what it was like to go hungry as a child when she attended MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School. Other young women are serving their communities as engineers, pastors, doctors, nurses, and so much more. Your gifts create a spark of opportunity that grows to fuel generations of empowered Africans, working to create the change they want to see. Thank you! – Sincerely, *Jason Bergmann, Executive Director Operation Bootstrap Africa*

This note is an acknowledgement of the continued difference the stove we provided for Olchoki makes in young lives.



Love came down at Christmas, God’s love. That same love is shared over and over through you, the members of New Jerusalem. Thank you for the many expressions of love you have and continue to share with me. While I try to thank you individually, I don’t always succeed, so please know how much I appreciate them and you. May each of you experience the blessings of God’s love this year. – *Pastor Ruth*



Thank you to the Congregation of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. I appreciate it very much. I love playing the organ and piano and feel privileged to be able to serve in this music ministry. Thank you for allowing me to be choir director and a part-time organist. – Blessings to you all, *Faye Dey*

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

December 31, 2019

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 23,256.61
Thrivent	8,625.25
Checking	7,032.25
Youth	405.31
Fidelity	120,386.32
Cash Reserve	17,776.22
Mission Investment	11,461.12
Local Care	1,788.75
Total	<u>\$ 190,731.83</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **December 31, 2018** \$ 198,650.94

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

	Income Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,077.08	\$ 12,325.00	\$ 3,247.92

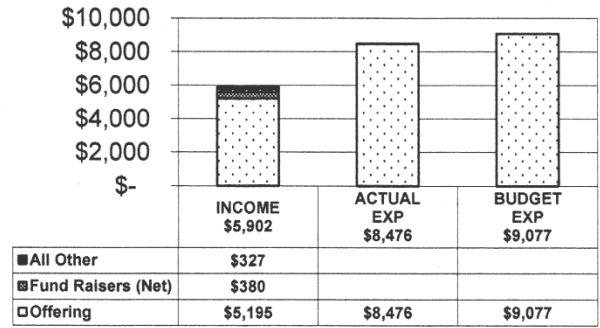
*Income Required per Month — Based on 2019
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

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

\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Parking Lot
Project \$ 30,518.52 Funds
Received to offset expenses
(Includes \$621.98 Profit from Fall
Festival and \$910.00 from Oley Fair
French Fry)



DECEMBER 2019 YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE



MONTHLY AVERAGE

CALENDAR YEAR 2019 INFORMATION NORMAL OPERATIONS (DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)

INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY DECEMBER 2019 YEAR-TO-DATE		
	<u>Dec Y-T-D</u>	<u>Average Month</u>
Income		
Offering	\$ 62,334	\$ 5,195
Fund Raisers	\$ 4,562	380
Other	\$ 3,927	327
Total Income	\$ 70,823	5,903
Actual Exp	\$ 101,712	8,476
Budget Exp	\$ 108,925	9,077
Shortage *	\$ (30,889)	(2,574)

***NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2019 ACTUAL Expense
Less Benevolence & Major Repairs/Purchases**

Did You Know?

SHEPHERD'S CROOK

The shepherd's crook is a symbol for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). The crook also symbolizes the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It's also used in connection with King David, who worked as a shepherd when he was young.



BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Donated Items in much need right now: coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juices, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soup of all kinds (except chicken noodle and tomato), spaghetti sauce, beef stew, canned meat (such as tuna, chicken breast or Spam), Manwich or sloppy joe mix, chili, Chef Boyardee canned items (such as beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), Hamburger Helper, snacks of all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), flour, sugar, oatmeal, breakfast cereal, pancake syrup and mix, cooking oil, pasta or rice sides, ramen noodles, shampoo, bar soap, body wash, and laundry detergent.

The Pantry is always in need of:

Canned Fruits: sliced peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cup, applesauce, etc.

Canned Vegetables: kidney beans, black beans, green beans, whole kernel corn and creamed corn, pork & beans, sweet peas, carrots, beets, yams

Canned Goods: tomatoes, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce

Condiments: yellow and brown mustard, pickles, salad dressings, vinegar

Drinks: hot or cold tea, water

Extra: peanut butter, marshmallow fluff, jelly

Dry Goods: stuffing mix, Rice-a-Roni, pasta (rotini, penne, macaroni and cheese)

Baking Items: cake or brownie mix, frosting

Breakfast Food: pop tarts, cereal bars

Paper Products: tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

Personal Care Items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, 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.

The pantry is open to area residents by appointment on the first three Tuesdays of the month and the third Thursday, from 9:15 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. For appointments, call 610-682-7633 either Tuesday or Thursday or leave a message with your contact information.

Donations may be dropped off during pantry hours cited above or call to arrange a convenient time. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. 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.**

IN OTHER WORDS

We’re so accustomed to hearing the Bible’s “love chapter,” 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message* Bible reveal to you?

“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to end. Love never dies” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).



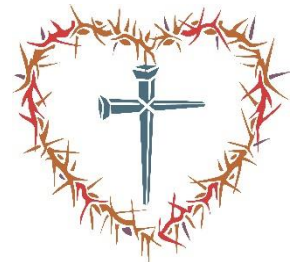
Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

OUR LENTEN FOCUS

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26 this year, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn’t to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without.

Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus’ death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: “The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.”



Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February

- | | | | |
|---|----|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ | 2 | 10:00 AM | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (G) – Holy Communion
▪ Souper Bowl Breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. |
| | 9 | 10:00 AM | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (G)
▪ Annual Meeting after worship |
| * | 16 | 10:00 AM | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (G) |
| | 23 | 10:00 AM | Transfiguration of Our Lord (W) – Holy Communion |
| | 26 | 7:00 PM | Ash Wednesday Service (P) – Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Mertztown |

March

- | | | | |
|---|----|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * | 1 | 10:00 AM | First Sunday in Lent (P) – Holy Communion
▪ Stewardship Committee meeting after worship |
| | 4 | 7:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Service (P)
▪ Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville |
| | 8 | 10:00 AM
12:00 PM | Second Sunday in Lent (P)
Faith Formation Event |
| | 11 | 7:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Service (P)
▪ Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton |
| * | 15 | 10:00 AM | Third Sunday in Lent (P) |
| | 18 | 7:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Service (P)
▪ Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers |
| | 22 | 10:00 AM | Fourth Sunday in Lent (P) |
| | 25 | 7:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Service (P)
▪ Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers |
| * | 29 | 10:00 AM | Fifth Sunday in Lent (P) |

April

- | | | | |
|---|----|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 7:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Service (P)
(location TBD) |
| * | 5 | 10:00 AM | Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday (P) – Holy Communion |
| | 8 | 7:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Service (P)
▪ St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Mertztown |
| | 9 | 7:00 PM | Maundy Thursday (P) – Holy Communion
▪ New Jerusalem Lutheran Church |
| | 10 | 7:00 PM | Good Friday
▪ Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville |
| | 12 | 10:00 AM | Easter Sunday (W) – Holy Communion |
| * | 19 | 10:00 AM | Second Sunday of Easter (W) |
| | 26 | 10:00 AM | Third Sunday of Easter (W) |

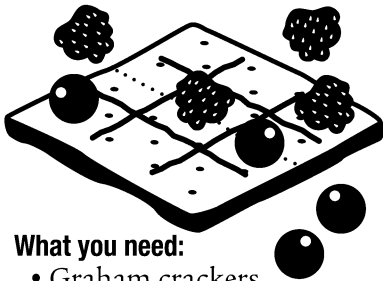
FELLOWSHIP DATES:

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



Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

What you do:

1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!

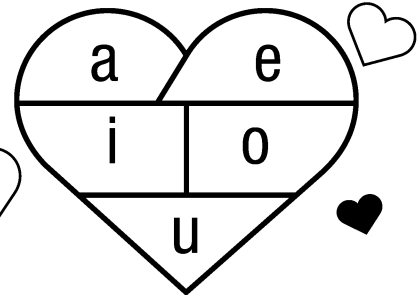


A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f

y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
2/2	TBA	Ken Keck	Diane Keller	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
2/9	Josh Keck	Ty Rissmiller	Faye and Larry Dey	Diane Keller
2/16	Gladys Kline	Gladys Kline	Joanne Pauley	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
2/23	TBA	Dale Schwoyer	George DeLong	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>

ALTAR GUILD: *(volunteer needed)*

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: *(sponsor needed)*

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION BREAD: 2/2 – Faye Dey; 2/23 – *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION SET-UP: 2/2 – Faye Dey; 2/23 – *(volunteer needed)*

COUNCILPERSON: Josh Keck, Ty Rissmiller, Dan Pauley

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

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Boy Scout Sunday 8:30am-Souper Bowl of Caring Breakfast before worship GROUNDHOG DAY	3 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	4 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	5 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 2:30-6:00pm-Threads for Others	6 10:00am-Bible Study	7 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8 9:00am-12:00pm-Soup and Sandwich Sale, St. Peter's UCC, Topton
9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Annual Meeting after worship	10 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	11 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	13	14 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. VALENTINE'S DAY	15 4:00-7:00pm-Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Feed the Need Packing Project, Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Stewardship Meeting after worship ▪ Annual Meeting (snow date)	17 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. PRESIDENT'S DAY	18 5:00-7:00pm Spirit on Tap, Doubletree Hotel, Reading 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 2:30-6:00pm-Threads for Others	20	21 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	22
23 Transfiguration of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	25 11:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	26 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Ash Wednesday Worship Service, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown Imposition of Ashes Holy Communion	27 10:00am-Bible Study	28 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29 5:00-7:00pm-Potluck Supper and Movie at New Jerusalem LEAP DAY

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Mission Trip to Puerto Rico



Imagine riding in one of two fifteen-passenger vans, both navigating a narrow two-lane road that twisted and turned up into the tropical mountains of central Puerto Rico. The views were spectacular. Palms, giant philodendron, and the fiery flowers of the Flamboyant Royal Poinciana tree grace the roadsides and green mountain walls. Small, compact, and humble homes supported by what looks like toothpick legs hug the steep slopes. A morning journey brought the volunteers to the town of Comerío, where the streets have yielded to the mountain's natural topography, reminiscent of the hilly streets of San Francisco.

On June 30, 2019, under the guiding eye of Lutheran Disaster Response working through Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico, 25 Lutheran volunteers from 5 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod churches traveled to Puerto Rico to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Maria.

The volunteers divided into four teams. One team repaired a house needing to have the roof power washed and sealed, as well as its interior ceiling and walls scraped and painted. This house had stood empty for the past two years and was unlivable in its current state. The family who had lived there pre-Maria were hoping to return to their home as soon as possible.

Thanks to God and the excellent guidance and organization of Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico, the team was able to power wash their roof and seal it. They scraped ceilings and painted the interior of their home. Much of their nearly new furniture, now moldy and warped, still awaited removal. All their kitchen appliances had been destroyed.

And yet, because of the hard work of the team, and a generous grant from The Witness and Service Ministry Team supported through Mission Support giving to the Synod, the work was accomplished. Donations of various gift cards from a number of congregations enabled the team to purchase a new refrigerator for the family. What a joy to see faces of hope as these homeowners came so much closer to reclaiming their home. Truly the team used its hands to do God's work!



Don't Be Fooled by Email Phishing Scams

There have been several phishing attempts recently that appear to be emails from Bishop Zeiser asking for "help." Two were phony Gmail addresses (bishopnepsynod@gmail.com and rzeiserbishopr@gmail.com). Neither the bishop nor any of the synod staff will ever email you directly asking for "help." This is a scam. Please don't reply; even better, just delete the email without even opening it.

Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon



On December 10 the fourth annual Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon was hosted by the Synod's Support Staff at The Lutheran Center in Schoenersville. This year the luncheon was opened to all lay workers in the congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. There were 45 people in attendance. After greetings from Bishop Zeiser, a hot, catered lunch was served, introductions were made, and there was time for some get-to-know-you games and plenty of fellowship.

The luncheon always has some return guests and some first-time attendees. This year there was a parish secretary who

was in her sixth week of church work, and one who has been serving in the church for 50 years. Pastor Laura Csellak went above and beyond by driving two secretaries from Ashland in Schuylkill County to The Lutheran Center so they could be a part of the festivities. The cost of the luncheon was subsidized with Thrivent Action Team grants.

About 45% of the staff members who attended were treated by their congregations and/or pastors. Let's try to increase that percentage next year and encourage congregation workers to take advantage of a fun, relaxing afternoon in the middle of the Advent season. It's a wonderful opportunity to build partnerships with other church workers and the synod. Look for a keep-the-date card with next year's date at the synod assembly.



New Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Faith Formation



Sammy Kelly (she/her/hers) is a 2019 graduate of United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia where she earned a Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership. She continues to be on staff at New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Tripoli, where she has served for the past five years. Her husband, Billy Miller, was just hired as Youth Director at Lenape Valley Church in Doylestown and is pursuing the Crossroads Lay Leadership program at Moravian Theological Seminary. They are both excited to enter into a new year of life and ministry in 2020!

In this newly formed position, Sammy will provide leadership and support to both the Youth, Young Adult, and Family and the Faith Formation Ministry Teams of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. She looks forward to dreaming with and working alongside the many church leaders who love our youth, young adults, and Jesus. She is a 7 on the enneagram, always open to swapping dog stories, and would love if you were to email her at sammy@nepssynod.org to introduce yourself and/or set up a time for conversation.

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