

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

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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.



“I am . . . the beginning and the ending,” says the Lord.” – Revelations 22:13

THE MISSION OF NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

*We are a group of people who
gather together in friendship and love
to worship God, to spread God’s Word,
and to care for God’s people.*



"I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the ending." Rev 22:13

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

According to Wikipedia, "in ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, doorways, passages and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past." (While some say the month of January is named after Janus it was Juno, the head god, who was the designated "deity of the month.")

Scripture and witnesses through the centuries tell us that it is the God we know as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who is the God of all transitions, both endings and beginnings.

As we enter the new year, 2020, we look back and we look forward. We look back and we look forward because God gives us the courage to do so.

We look back with fond memories of some of the events of 2019, memories that bring a smile to our faces and cause God to smile as well. For those memories that bring tears to our eyes, God stands by us with comfort and hope. When we experience regrets for things we have done and left undone, relationships and opportunities we have lost, God gives us the courage to admit that some of these losses were our own fault. God also assures us that God will not only forgive us, not only give us the strength to live with the consequences of our actions and inactions, but will even guide us to right some of the wrongs.

Like Janus, though, as we mark the coming of the new year we don't just look backwards. We look forward to what is to come. We look forward with expectation and hope, knowing that God goes with us. Sometimes as we look forward, we are anxious because we think about some of the things that might be coming: challenges, transitions, possible health procedures, etc. Once again, we are reassured that the God is and will be with us.

Through the centuries some Christians developed a custom of "chalking the doors" in the new year. This is usually done on the main entrance using sacred signs and symbols and a short liturgy asking God's blessing upon those who go in and out, who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. An article on pages 8 and 9 gives more details.

One final note: I recently realized that when one says the numbers for the new year, they are the same numbers used to indicate clear vision (20/20).

In this new year, may God not only bless our goings and our comings, but also give us clear vision to see God and follow God's ways.

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 December 9:

- Council members discussed Chapter 3: Quality Matters of *The Invitational Christian*.
- Carson and Logan Seip will be receiving their First Communion at the Christmas Eve service.
- Eastern Propane replaced the combustion chamber during regular maintenance in November and the motor had to be replaced during a service call in December.
- Constitutional Amendments will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.
- Pastor Ruth attended a workshop sponsored by the East Berks Mission District called "Financial Responsibility."

JANUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Altar Flower and Bulletin sponsors for January 19 and 26, Communion Bread sponsors and Communion Set-up volunteers for January 5 and 12, and an Altar Guild volunteer. Greeters are also needed for January 5, 12, 19, and 26. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex if you can help. Thank you!

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Love to sing? Join us on **Sunday, December 29, at 10:00 a.m.** for this special service of Scripture and Christmas hymns.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed **Wednesday January 1**, for New Year's Day.

NO BELL OR ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS

There will be NO Choir Rehearsals on Tuesday, December 31. Rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, January 7, with Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Choir at 7:30 p.m. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports from the Council President, Worship & Music, Property, Stewardship, Fellowship & Activities, Mutual Ministry, Special Projects, Communion Set-up, and Altar Guild committees

are due to the church office by **Sunday, January 5**. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING

Help will be needed to take down the Christmas decorations on **Sunday, January 5**. Please plan to stay after the worship service if you are able to help. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

The next meeting of the congregations will take place on **Monday, January 13, at 4:30 p.m.** at St. Peter's UCC, Topton. You are welcome to join us as we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions.

THREADS FOR OTHERS

This group is open to anyone who enjoys working with yarn and thread. We will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 15, from 2:30 p.m. until about 6:00 p.m.** Mark your calendar for our other get-togethers: February 5 and February 19. For more information, see the article on page 4.

FAITH FORMATION EVENT

The next Faith Formation event is scheduled for **Sunday, January 19, beginning at 12 noon.**

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the February 2020 newsletter is **Sunday, January 19**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

You should have received your new offering envelopes for the first half of 2020 in the mail. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office. Thank you!

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

End-of-year contribution statements for the year ending 2019 should arrive in your mailbox by the end of January. Please check them over and notify the church office if there are any discrepancies. Thank you!

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY: A STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA

Held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1000 W. Main Street, Lansdale, on **January 10-11, 2020**. On January 10 – Keynote Speaker: Clif Christopher, author of “It’s Not Your Father’s Offering Plate, Whose Offering Plate Is It?” and “The Church Money Manual and More.” January 11 – Keynote Speaker: Aimee Laramore, Pathways to Generosity: Year-round Giving and Gratitude. Registration includes Saturday lunch. Scholarships available. Sponsored by the Southeaster PA and Northeastern PA Synods. Let Pastor Ruth know if you are interested in attending.

ANNUAL MEETING

New Jerusalem’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 9**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual reports from the committees, discuss and vote upon the Constitutional Amendments, and elect new members to council. 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.

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2020

Mark your calendars for Learning Ministries Day on **Saturday, January 25, 2020** (snow date: Saturday, February 1). “Vision 2020” will be held at Union Lutheran Church, 5500 Route 873, Schnecksville, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Brenda Smith, ELCA Program Director, ELCA Faith and Book of Faith. Workshops will focus on the ELCA Vision 2025 themes of A Thriving Church, An Equipping Church, A Welcoming Church, A Visible Church, and a Well-governed, Connected, and Sustainable Church. Descriptions are posted on the bulletin board. Since there’s something for everyone, consider signing up. Scholarships are available. Registration costs go up after December 31 and close on January 15. See Pastor Ruth if interested in attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT NEW JERUSALEM

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar:

- Souper Bowl for Caring Breakfast – February 2, breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Potluck Supper and Movie – February 22 from 5-7 p.m. (alternate date is February 29)

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.

THREADS FOR OTHERS

Thread for Others is the name chosen by the folks who have been working for over a year on quilts, dresses for girls in third world countries, and walker bags for nursing home residents. Since the group now plans to meet more regularly and for longer times, we hope that others will come when they can and leave when they must.

What does “Threads” include? Any project that involves fibers, including knitting, crocheting, using fabric, tying knots on quilts, etc. The hope is that folks who enjoy all of these activities will enjoy getting together. What about the phrase, “For Others?” There are many ways to use threads that will benefit others such as prayer shawls, hats and scarves for seafarers or others, quilts for Lutheran World Relief, “pillowcase” dresses, and many others. Participants don’t have to be especially skilled. They can come to learn a craft, to simply cut out pieces, lay or tie a quilt, or simply enjoy the fellowship and add support.

“Threads for Others” is scheduled to meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If the weather is in question, contact Sara Jane at 610-987-9214 or Pastor Ruth at 484-553-1162.

Did You Know?

CROSS ON THE ROCK

The rock is often used as a symbol of the Lord, our strength and firm foundation. A cross rising from the rock echoes many Bible verses that proclaim Christ as the rock of salvation; for example, “He alone is my rock and my salvation ...” (Psalm 62:2, ESV).



NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

MILLER KEYSTONE BLOOD DRIVES

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown, will be holding a blood drive on **Friday, December 27, from 1:00-6:00 p.m.** If you would like to donate, contact Maryann Lantz at 610-682-6229. You can also call Miller Keystone at 1-800-B-A-DONOR or go online at www.GIVEaPINT.org. Online registration sponsor code is 0473.

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, will be holding a blood drive on **Sunday, January 5**, after their worship service.

FAMILY MOVIE AND GAME NIGHT

Join other families for a Movie and Game night at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, on **Saturday, January 18, from 6:30-9:00 p.m.** Adults, bring your favorite games to play. Childcare will be provided. A movie will be shown for children who aren't interested in board or card games. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carla Fleming at carla.fleming64@gmail.com with how many people will be attending and what game and snack you would like to share.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, will be holding their 2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on **Saturday, February 15**. Funds will be raised for the Feed the Need Project to be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020. More Details to follow at a later date.

THE WARMTH OF GOD'S LOVE TRAVELS AROUND AND AROUND THE WORLD

7 scarves, 2 cowls, and 19 hats: that's what we sent to the New York headquarters of Seafarer's International at the beginning of December. Now when you notice that the food you purchase or the gifts you buy have been imported, you can wonder whether one of our handmade items warmed a sailor who was working on the ship that brought it. When you think of this, take a moment to thank God for these international workers who face long hours, all kinds of weather and are away from their families for months at a time. Pray for their safety. May you and they also be warmed by God's love.

Since winter is a great time to knit and crochet, if you would like to join in this project, just ask for directions on how to craft these items. Want to learn a new skill? Someone would be glad to teach you. Just ask Phyllis, Sara Jane, Sue or Betty.



IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

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 Gajewski, 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, and Dawn Wartzenuft.

Friends of the congregation: Family and friends of Henry Aulenbach, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Carson Bosma, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mark Derr, Gary DeWees, Randy Dreibelbis, Denise Ebelhar, Jennifer Engle, Eric Fox, Ivan Gromling, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Corinne Hersh, Johnson-Agiri Family, 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 Peterschein, Ruth Ramsey, Patricia Sigfried, Leticia Weaver, Diane Whitehead, Althea Young, Pat, and Serita.

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, Lorelai Gold, David Jenkins, Janis Kershner, Michael M., Michelle Meck, Philip and Nancy Meck, Tonya Peterschein, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Jacqi Wagner, and Leah Wiest.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church,
On behalf of all the volunteer firefighters here at
Lyons Fire Company #1, we want to thank you for
your recent donation to our fire equipment fund.
We appreciate your generous support to all our
first responders. Please keep us in your prayers as
we work to keep our citizens safe and serve our
local communities. Thanks again! – Respectfully,
Jerry L. Keller, Assistant Fire Chief



Dear Members of New Jerusalem,
Thank you very much for your monetary donation
to the Brandywine Food Pantry! – Sincerely, St.
Peter's UCC, Topton



To New Jerusalem Lutheran Church,
I wanted to send you a quick note of thanks for the
generous donation to our WHY Program. This
program does a phenomenal job at servicing our
Middle School students and it can remain available
through the generosity of our community. Thank
you again and have a wonderful holiday season! –
*Robert Farina, Principal, Intermediate and Middle
Schools, Brandywine Heights Area School District*



- 3 David Moyer, Sr.
- 5 Wilma Herman
- 6 Bertha Bennecoff
- 10 Norma Conrad
- 14 Holly Allen
- 14 Keith Boyer
- 15 Myles Angstadt
- 20 Roy Merkel
- 21 Jonathan Allen
- 29 Darla Stout
- 30 Ted Eshbach
- 30 Lloyd Moyer

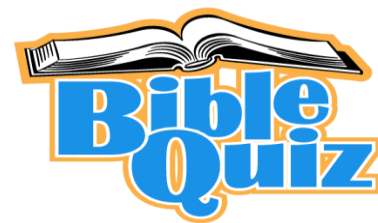


- 5 Daniel and Joanne Pauley (29 years)
- 17 Gary and Carrie Paige Lambert (6 years)



“What a wonderful thought it is that some of
the best days of our lives haven’t even happened
yet.”

– Anne Frank



According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus’
baptism? (Choose as many as
apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus’ mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples



Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)

STEWARDSHIP YOUR BEST YEAR EVER!

"Stewardship is not only a matter of faithful giving but of faithful living. In response to the Gospel, we submit our lives to the rule of God, to the lordship of Christ, and to the direction of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have." – **Mark Allan Powell**, author of *Giving to God*.

Yikes! It's January 2, and the bathroom scale shows that, once again, I've gained a few pounds in the five-week blitz-feast of Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year. Clearly, I need to *steward* my health better in 2020.

Though it's not the most common use of the word, *steward* is also a verb, an action word. We *steward* all that God has entrusted to us, making choices that, as Mark Allan Powell says, help us "be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have."

We steward our lives through our decisions and choices – the food we eat, the people we call friends, how we spend our money, the entertainment we select, the hobbies we enjoy, the many ways we spend our time, and so on.

To steward faithfully, we have to live in prayerful awareness and make conscious, thoughtful decisions that will advance us in Godly directions. As 2020 begins, prayerfully consider the most important areas of your life, such as your physical, mental and spiritual health, as well as your relationships and time, and ask God to help you steward them in ways that will help you be the person God wants you to be and have the life God wants you to have.

As for me, it will not only help me lose those extra holiday pounds, but also give me my best year ever.

—Rob Blezard

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LOVE IN ACTION

Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with "absolute commitment to the way of love."



Love, declared the minister and activist, "is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." And, he said, anyone who's "devoid of the power to love" is "devoid of the power to forgive."

King distinguished between true love and "empty sentimentalism," however. He taught—and showed—that love is "the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another."

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate "active outpouring" of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

"Because of Calvary I'm free to choose," writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. "No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves."

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

THE CALENDAR

An essential part of our lives is the calendar. It provides us with a perspective in our relationship to our past, present and future. It helps us to plan our share of the accomplishment of God's purpose. It is a way of recording significant occasions such as birthdays and important family events. It enables us to have uniform observance of cultural tradition and religious festivals. It is a daily companion, on the desk or on the wall, giving us a pattern by which to weave the fabric of our personalities.



—Jeanne D. Birrell

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

CHALKING THE DOOR

“Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.”

The Christian tradition of chalking the door is a sign that we have invited God’s presence and blessing into our home or other space.

There is precedent for doing this. At the time of the Exodus the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the angel of death would pass over their homes. Later, after giving them the ten commandments, God told the people, “These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:9)

While it is not clear how the Christian tradition of chalking doors started, nor why it became associated with Epiphany, it exists in many countries. It can take place any time after Christmas, though most often on the twelfth night, January 5, Epiphany Eve. It may be done by a priest, or by a family using chalk that may or may not have been blessed. An article on the *Alles German* website tells us that in southern Germany “it is common to see groups of children called **Sternsinger** (literally star singers) go from house to house dressed in kingly costumes and carrying a star on January 6th. They sing a song, recite a poem about the three kings, write a blessing on the door frame and collect a donation for a charity. People they visit may also give them a treat—some chocolate, candy, etc.—no doubt to give them energy to carry on through the day.”

So how do you chalk a door? First, get some chalk of any color. Next gather those who live or work in that building. Use a short liturgy and prayer. Next, taking turns, mark the doorway in the following way: **20 + C + M + B + 20**. The first and last numbers indicate the year you are doing this. You can write this above, on, or on the side of the door.

The crosses, of course, stand for Jesus. But what about C + M + B?

Here again we have a variety of traditions. Some use the names traditionally given to the wise men:

Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest they stand for the Latin “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” which means, “May Christ bless this dwelling!”

Like the Israelites who marked their doors with blood, some folk think this practice protects their homes from evil spirits. Others perform this act because it represents Mary and Joseph’s hospitality to the Magi and all Gentiles. Overall, however, it is an invitation to God’s presence in one’s dwelling or other important space.

Why use chalk? Chalk is made of common elements of the earth and has many ordinary uses such as by teachers to instruct students or by children in their games and play. In the case of chalking the doors, chalk is used as an ordinary substance put to holy use. Since it is not permanent, it will not mar the building and the fact that it fades with time, calls us to rededicate our lives and spaces to God, and ask God’s blessings on all who come and go through that door.

As far as a liturgy to use, one can simply use the blessing listed under the title for this article, and mark the doorway or base it on suggestions found on The United Methodist Discipleship Ministries Worship website:

You can use individual prayers, Bible readings, remembrances of the past, expectations for the future, and add verses of a hymn, and use the litany below:

A Blessing of the Home

Leader: The Lord is with you.

Community: And also with you.

All: Peace be to this house (or office, or other place) and to all who live, work, and visit here.

L: The three wise men came to Bethlehem in search of the Lord. They brought to him precious gifts: gold to honor the newborn king, incense to the true God in human form, and myrrh to anoint his body, which one day would die like our own.

L: Let us pray. O God, you once used a star to show to all the world that Jesus is your Son. May the light of that star that once guided wise men to honor his birth, now guide us to recognize him also, to know you by faith, and to see you in the epiphanies of the daily experiences of our lives.

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord—Jesus born of Mary—shall be revealed.

C: And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

All: As the Wise Men once sought your brilliant light, O Lord, so may we seek to live and work in your splendor.

L: O God of Light, bless this (our) house and this (our) family. May this be a place of peace and health. May each member of this family cultivate the gifts and graces you have bestowed, dedicating our talents and works for the good of all.

L: Make this house a shelter in the storm and a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of that Epiphany star.

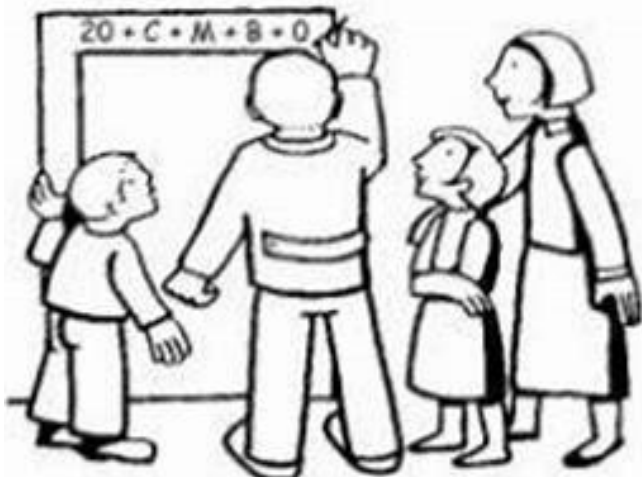
C: As we go about our work, our study, our play, keep us in its light and in your love.

People in turn mark the doorway with one or more of the symbols: 20 + C + M + B + 20

L: May we, in this place, and all who come to visit, to work, and to play, remember these things throughout the coming year. May all who come and go here find peace, comfort, joy, hope, love, and salvation, for Christ has come to dwell in this house and in these hearts.

All: May we be Christ's light in the world. Amen.

Whether or not you choose to follow this custom, may you find that God is present and blessing the places where you dwell and go.



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

November 30, 2019

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 23,252.40
Thrivent	7,939.94
Checking	6,611.13
Youth	405.24
Fidelity	117,983.74
Cash Reserve	17,517.76
Mission Investment	11,450.48
Local Care	1,763.75
Total	<u>\$ 186,924.44</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **November 30, 2018** \$ 198,666.38

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

Income	Income	Actual	Difference
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,077.08	\$ 4,552.30	\$ (4,524.78)

*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

\$ 30,263.52 Funds Received to offset expenses
(Includes \$621.98 Profit from Fall Festival and \$910.00 from Oley Fair French Fry)

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE IN THE NEW YEAR

On the edge of a new year, Lord, teach us again to order our priorities and number our days and hours, and teach us to trust—life, history, one another, You. So that even in the gray and gloomy days, when the ceiling is low, we may trust the star that enabled wise men of old to live in hope and proclaim the divine promises which call us on in Jesus Christ. Amen.

–Deryl Fleming

THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January

	5	10:00 AM	Epiphany of Our Lord (W) – Holy Communion
*	12	10:00 AM	Baptism of Our Lord (W) – Holy Communion
	19	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany (G)
*	26	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany (G)

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 (location TBD)

March

*	1	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent (P) – Holy Communion
	4	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P)
	8	10:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent (P)
	11	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P)
*	15	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent (P)
	18	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P)
	22	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent (P)
	25	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P)
*	29	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent (P)

FELLOWSHIP DATES:

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



“STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God's many blessings.



What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

What you do:

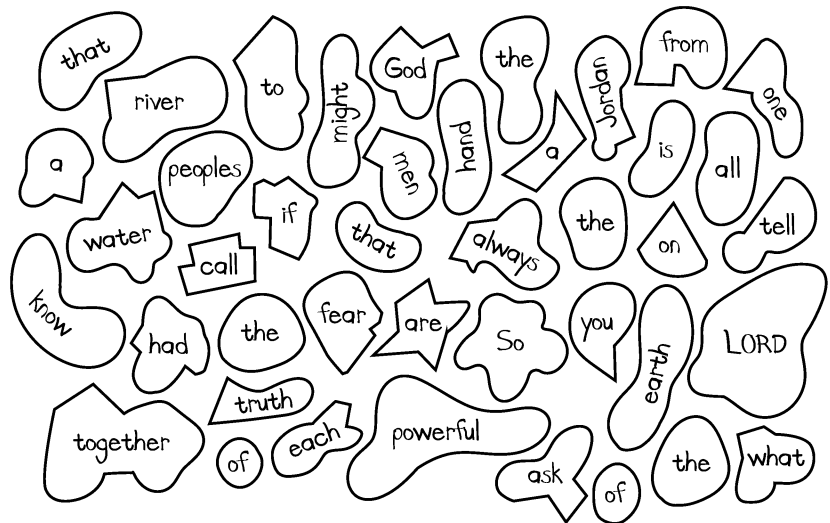
1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.



Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
 _____ the _____
 the _____ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
1/5	TBA	Ken Keck	Daniel and Joanne Pauley	Daniel and Joanne Pauley
1/12	TBA	Sara Jane Beshore	Dale Schwoyer	Katie Ellen Cleaver and Randy Cleaver
1/19	TBA	Dawn Wengert	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
1/26	TBA	Ken Keck	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>

ALTAR GUILD: *(volunteer needed)*

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Gladys Kline

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Dale Schwoyer

COMMUNION BREAD: 1/5 – *(sponsor needed)*; 1/12 – *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION SET-UP: 1/5 – *(volunteer needed)*; 1/12 – *(volunteer needed)*

COUNCILPERSON: Cheryl Wiltrout

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

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day	2	3 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	4
5 Epiphany of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Committee Reports due to Church Office	6 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	7 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	8 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	9	10 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Stewardship Committee Meeting after worship	13 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 4:30pm-Congregational Conversations, St. Peter's UCC, Tipton 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	14 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	15 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 2:30-6:00pm-Threads for Others	16	17 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	18 6:30-9:00pm-Family Movie and Game Night, Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 12:00pm-Faith Formation Newsletter Deadline	20 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed)	21 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	22 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	23	24 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	25 9:00am-3:00pm-Learning Ministries' Day, Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville (snow date: Feb. 1)
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Fellowship after worship	27 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	28 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	29 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	30	31 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Open Arms Senior Connection - Arndt's, Easton



For over 17 years, grants totaling more than a half million dollars have been made possible through mission support giving. Grant applications are received by the Witness and Service Ministry Team and are awarded based on the outreach the grant will accomplish.

The story that follows is written by the founders and the current program director of Open Arms Senior Connection. It tells of an inspiring ministry that got its beginning because of a vision, the need to help others, and the available grant funds that allowed it to thrive.

Over ten years ago a small Welcome and Outreach committee at Arndt's Lutheran Church in Forks Township was looking for another ministry that could use their resources. The congregation came together to modify their existing spaces using funds predominantly from a Transforming Congregations grant and a Witness and Service grant, both of which are mission support grant programs available through the Synod.



Today "Open Arms Senior Connection" continues as a two-day a week program for older adults in the greater Easton community. Realizing that the time some of the participants spend at Open Arms might be the only times during the week that they enjoy a meal with someone, or have any human contact at all, inspires the congregation to make the program as effective and impactful as possible.

The success of this program is due in great part to two paid co-directors and all the volunteers. The program runs on a budget of about \$1000 per month, which goes toward daily beverages and snacks, basic supplies, and salaries.

Donations, fundraisers, and Witness and Service grants from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA has allowed this program to reach and provide long term benefits to hundreds of older adults in the region.

To learn more about the activities and outreach of this ministry, please read the full story on the synod website (nepasynod.org/open-arms-senior/) or look for it on the facebook page "Mission Interpreters of NEPA Synod." Remember to "Like" and Share." You can also print a bulletin insert.



Sharing Life - St. Mark, Allentown



Sharing Life is the brain child of Sue Krasley, a parishioner of St. Mark's, who worked at Allentown State Hospital and who had concerns about individuals losing peer relationships due to the closure of the hospital in 2010. At the time, Pastor Brindjar graciously and enthusiastically afforded the opportunity to begin our mission by opening the doors of St. Mark's for a monthly gathering.

What originated as a modest idea of serving a monthly luncheon nine years ago has expanded into a much sought-after experience by our community; it now includes monthly Craft days led by St. Mark's talented artists Brenda Mann and Charlie Orbin.

As our events grew, our attendees have become diverse; and today, monthly events not only include individuals formerly served at Allentown State Hospital, but also embrace individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities as well as the community at large.

Throughout the years the echo and sentiment of Pastor Brindjar's mantra can still be heard: "Stay Calm and Carry On". Due to the success of our mission, and because we often find ourselves serving upwards of 120 individuals each month, we have adopted another mantra: "fishes and loaves."

Because of St. Mark's willingness to take a risk and open their doors and hearts, our mission isn't just about serving individuals lunch. More important is offering to individuals our acceptance, an opportunity to form new friendships, and a welcome to a faith-based community. All activities and luncheons are free to participants and are funded lovingly by our mighty Committee members, St. Mark parishioners, and community donors.



Deadline for 2019 Mission Support Contributions January 31, 2020

Checks must be in the office (not postmarked) by that date. Also, it is important that the Remittance Form is marked correctly to indicate whether a contribution is intended for the year 2019 or 2020. After the January 31 cutoff date, all receipts will be credited as 2020 contributions.

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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.