

## THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

*(Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Thursday  
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)*



I URGE, THEN, ... THAT PETITIONS, PRAYERS,  
INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR  
ALL PEOPLE—FOR KINGS AND ALL  
THOSE IN AUTHORITY, THAT WE MAY  
LIVE PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIVES IN ALL  
GODLINESS AND HOLINESS.

-1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

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 my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*  
– Lloyd Stone<sup>1</sup>

It's July, Fellow Followers of Jesus! It's July, a month we in the northern hemisphere associate with summer fun and vacations.

It's July, Fellow Followers of The Way, The Truth, and the Life! It's July, a month we in the United States associate with our nation's birthday, when, out of many peoples and states, one nation was born. *E pluribus unum* we inscribe on our currency. Out of many one.

It's July, and, if things are going as my family has planned, in the beginning of the month we will be out west. I don't know whether we will see fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup>, but I'm counting on being able to see God's display of splendor in the night skies, since part of the time we will be far away from city lights.

Yes, we will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>! I, like many if not all of you, love our country. I am so thankful God has allowed me to live here! At the same time, I take seriously God's call for me to pray for and serve my country, *and* to call her out when what is happening is not just. I treasure our system of government which allows and expects me to participate in governing our country through voting and doing my share to express my thoughts and opinions to others and to my representatives. At the same time, I also respect and pray for all other peoples and nations. Just as I am called to criticize the nation where I live when it is not behaving justly, I am called to criticize other nations when they behave unjustly. As a child of God, a follower of Jesus, I, like you, am called to work for peace and justice throughout the world.

Many of you have shared with me that you are very concerned about our country. There *are* many reasons to be concerned. There are also many differing voices asserting, even shouting, "This is what we ought to do!" "This is what the United States is and should be about!" Not only are the messages confusing, but often it is difficult to figure out what is behind them, what is driving them, and what their ultimate goal is. In addition, the words they speak and even the names various groups give themselves may sound good to us, but may not refer to what we assume they stand for. As followers of Jesus, we need to continually be on the lookout for ways God's words are distorted and misused.

Throughout scripture God warned God's people against false prophets. Jesus warned his followers against those who would claim to speak in his name, but would mislead them. (Matthew 24, Luke 26) So, just because a group claims to be "Christian," doesn't necessarily

mean that it is encouraging the same attitudes or behavior Jesus does. Therefore, as followers of Jesus' we are called as individuals and as the community to continually get to know Jesus and his message better so that, as Jesus promised, the Spirit can guide us into truth. We need to help one another in the process of discernment.

Some of you have asked me about one word that is being used a lot today, *nationalism*. This is one of the areas where things can get confusing and misleading. Often when people use the word *nationalism*, they assume it means the same as *patriotism*. Up until recently I kind of assumed it did. However, I am learning that there is a difference and it can be important.

*Patriotism* refers to love and respect for one's country while simultaneously respecting others. *Nationalism exalts* one nation *above all others* and places *primary emphasis* on promotion of its culture and interests *as opposed* to those of other nations. The differences may be subtle, but they are important for us. *In addition*, nationalism can and often does slip into exalting, elevating, one ethnic group or religion or way of thinking *within* a nation, says one ethnic group or religion is better than others and even that others may be a threat. This then easily moves into *suppression* and even *oppression* of others within that nation. Think about what happened in Nazi Germany or other countries where a minority is persecuted. This is what nationalism can and often does slip into. As followers of Jesus, we are called to love and seek the welfare of all, to be on guard against injustice for any of God's children.

One more thing. As Christians we distinguish love of and devotion to God from love of and devotion to our country. Even though we may love and be devoted to both at the same time, our love and devotion are not equal. Our *first and primary* allegiance is to God, to Jesus' way of life. For this reason, while it is fine for followers of Jesus to be patriotic, we continue to be alert to the subtleties and intentions of the terms and messages people use, particularly when, on the surface, they sound like things Jesus said.

Yes, it *is* July, dear friends. It is time for fun and vacations, to lighten up and celebrate and give thanks for the freedom of warmer weather, longer days and starry nights, for sunshine, friends and family, picnics and the bounty of our gardens. Yes, it *is* July, dear friends, a time to enthusiastically celebrate the birth of our nation. I pray that as we celebrate July, we also remain vigilant, watching for subtle lies and detours that would lead us off the Way of Jesus and weaken our beloved nation as well.

*Pastor Ruth*

*This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdom,  
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.*

*O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you, and hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations; myself I give you, let your will be done.*

*—Georgia Harkness<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Hymn ELW #887 reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Hymns License #SAS28326. All rights reserved.

# NEWS & EVENTS

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on June 13th:

- Council members started reading and discussing *I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes a Difference* by Thomas Ranier.
- Property Committee reported that the cracks in the parking lot have been sealed and that the lines will be repainted shortly.
- Property Committee is also addressing problems with the well and the air conditioning system.

## PASTOR RUTH ON VACATION

Pastor Ruth will be on vacation June 23 until July 11. If you would need pastoral care June 23-30, please contact Crystal Angstadt, who serves as pastor at Christ DeLong UCC and St. Peter's UCC at 484.336-8661. For pastoral care July 1-11, please contact Pastor Marty Milne who serves Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 610.682.7664.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY

We thank Ted and Betty Eshbach for serving as New Jerusalem's representatives at this year's Synod Assembly held on June 10-11 on Zoom.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group is completing its study of Revelation. We will be taking a break for the summer and plan to start up again in September.

## COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, July 7, at 10:00 a.m.** Pages and supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.



Not able to get to church or don't feel comfortable getting together there? Just let them know and pages will be sent to you and you can visit with other members by phone. If you are interested, please let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know.

## CHEW ON THIS

As a result of congregations working together to develop Ministries with Seniors, we are now starting a series of lunch and learn opportunities called "Chew on This." The first topic is "Cyberfraud, Scams & Prevention." This will be held at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, on **Thursday, July 14, from 12:00-1:30 p.m.** Lunch is provided and a free-will offering will be accepted.

## BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY HELPER FORM

Here's another program local congregations are developing as part of Ministries with Seniors.

Would you be willing to offer your time/talents/abilities to those in the community who may have little or no ability to pay for these services from others? Congregations in the Brandywine Heights Area School District are joining with school Superintendent Andrew Potteiger to organize a way to connect those who need help with those willing to provide it. Requests will be limited as to not overwhelm an individual volunteer.

The way this works is that volunteers submit their information (name, skill, contact information, and any details) and the information is placed into a list of contacts. Pastors Dan Hoffstetter and Jeremiah Sassaman, along with Superintendent Andrew Potteiger, will be the only ones who will see the names of the contacts. People who need help will be directed to a way to request that help. The requests will be screened to determine need. Only then will a request be made to an individual volunteer as to their willingness and availability to help.

Volunteers can sign up on the form included in this newsletter or available in the narthex, or at <https://forms.gle/c7g7couaGjWpTtJE6>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Dan Hoffstetter at [dhoffstetter@redeemertopton.org](mailto:dhoffstetter@redeemertopton.org). Thank you to all willing to love and serve our neighbors in this way.

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"In the cause of freedom we have to battle for the rights of people with whom we do not agree. ... If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own."  
—Harry Truman

## COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

We invite you to join us for Communion on the Parking Lot on **Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

If the weather appears questionable, please contact Pastor Ruth at 484.553.1162 to see whether the service is still going to be held.

**AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is **Sunday, July 17th**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.



## POTLUCK PICNIC AFTER WORSHIP

Join us for worship on **Sunday, July 17**, and after worship we will gather together for a potluck lunch. Everyone is invited to bring a friend along and something to share. However, if you aren't able to bring something, stay anyway. There will be plenty for all.

## COUNCIL MEETING

Our next council meeting will be held on the third Monday of the month, **July 18, at 7:00 p.m.**

## MUSIC FEST – July 30, 2022

This is going to be a great time to be had by all. Join us for a Music Fest on **Saturday, July 30, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** There will be food for purchase and country/bluegrass music by The Majestics Band. Please bring along some lawn chairs and sit back and relax and enjoy the evening.

## COMMUNITY WORSHIP IN THE PARK – Sunday, August 7, 10:30 a.m.

Join with folks from 8 area churches for worship and a picnic in Bowers Park. Bring a friend and a lawn chair. In case of rain, the event will be held at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville. We will not be worshipping in our church building this particular Sunday.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

- Potluck Picnic Lunch after church, July 17
- Potluck Picnic, August 20 after Communion on the Parking Lot at 5:00 p.m.
- Breakfast for Firefighters, October 1
- Campfire with Scouts, October 15
- Game Night and Potluck Supper, November 12

## NOTICE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SCOUT CABIN?

Have you noticed how hard our scouts and their leaders have been working to fix up the cabin and the surrounding area? They recently finished cleaning out the old metal trailers and these have been hauled away. Next they will finish cleaning the outside and paint the roof. Thanks, scouts and Josh Ken Keck, for helping us keep our property looking good.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE CHURCH?

As we continue to ask this question, we are using readings from the book of The Acts of the Apostles (aka *Acts*) for our first lessons each Sunday. During July our readings will come from the 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> chapters of the Book of Acts. We encourage you to read ahead.

7/4 – Acts 4:32-5:11 – Ananias and Saphira

7/10 – Acts 5:17-32 – Peter and John heal a lame man, Peter and John are arrested

7/17 – Acts 6:1-7 – The church chooses people to serve as deacons

7/24 – Acts 6:8- 8:1 – Stephen

7/31 – Acts 8:2-3, 9:1-25 – Conversion of Saul

## RECENT PHYSICAL CHALLENGES

Recently we have had problems with getting clean water from our well and the motor on the air conditioner burned out. The motor has been replaced and for the present, the water is running clear and pure. We are hoping it will remain so.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

July is our special effort to support the Brandywine Food Pantry. We have applied for a Thrivent grant of \$250.00 to purchase items which will supplement our donations.

- Pop tabs for Ronald MacDonald House – help supplement the efforts of Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers. A container is located in our fellowship area.
- Clean, used pill bottles with labels removed can be deposited in a box in our fellowship area. *Through These Hands* in Slatington distributes these to medical services in foreign countries which request them.

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No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves. —Amelia Earhart

## DISCERNING OUR FUTURE

As we continue to discern our future, we are also taking steps that will serve us well whatever direction God leads us. Thank you to those who will be taking an inventory of what we have, as well as those who are making sure we know exactly what shape our property and building are in as well as where all the maintenance information is located. Anyone willing to assist in organizing other records in such a way that they can be preserved, please contact Pastor Ruth.

Pastor is continuing to meet with pastors of the Lutheran congregations in our local area to discuss options for ministry. Soon members of our council will be meeting with members of other councils.



- 1 Randy Bennecoff
- 1 Kathy Bailey
- 7 Carson Seip
- 8 Logan Seip
- 12 Kenneth Keck
- 14 Phillip Litschke
- 18 Richard Bausher
- 18 Daniel Bailey
- 22 Rodney Keller
- 23 Dale Schwoyer
- 26 Brian Hess
- 29 Madison Musser



- 15 Daniel and Sheila Gehman (16 years)

Don't spell "part" backwards.  
It's a trap.

## AN UPDATE FROM SEAFARERS

76,442 Ukrainian seafarers are trying to provide for their families and wishing that they could be home to protect and defend their loved ones. Many work side by side with Russian mariners to get the job done, that is, to make sure you and I can rely on them maintaining the supply chains so that we hardly feel the consequences of the war and of COVID related disruptions.

Seafarers International House (SIH) port chaplains listen to and pray with these often-traumatized seafarers while also providing many services to the stressed mariners, including:

Helping with essentials and Wi-Fi connections so they can check on their families back in Ukraine.

Our Ukrainian port chaplain-in-training in the port of Baltimore is uniquely able to assist and support his compatriots.

Our port chaplains continue to assist mariners with COVID-19 vaccines or booster shots and also make deliveries of necessities and transport some crew members once again to malls and medical facilities.

In addition to the needs at the ports, SIH is preparing to receive more asylum seekers as the immigration process gradually relaunches. We will soon welcome people fleeing from Afghanistan and Ukraine in need of shelter and assistance navigating their new homeland. Thank you! – *Pastor Marsh Luther Drege*

**UKRAINE CRISIS: YOUR IMPACT THROUGH LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

Your gifts of over **\$5 million** to support relief for those impacted by the crisis in Eastern Europe are already at work. *Thank you!*

**EXAMPLES OF RESPONSE PROJECTS**

- Cash support for refugees and displaced people
- Emergency items such as beds, blankets and shelter
- Food, clean water and hygiene items
- Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups
- Psychosocial care, pastoral support
- Gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse

**POLAND**  
Partners: Lutheran World Federation, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland

**UKRAINE**  
Partners: Lutheran World Federation, German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine

**SLOVAKIA**  
Partners: Lutheran World Federation, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia

**HUNGARY**  
Partners: ACT Alliance, RGDTS-Phiren Amencia, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary

**MOLDOVA**  
Partner: Church World Service

**ROMANIA**  
Partners: Lutheran World Federation, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania

Lutheran Disaster Response  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

\*Map is current as of 5/5/2022

Additional responses with partners in these countries and others in the region are expected in the coming weeks and months. Learn more and give by visiting [ELCA.org/Ukraine](http://ELCA.org/Ukraine).



**WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS**

**Altar Flower sponsors for July:**

- July 3 – The Rissmiller Family
- July 10 – Richard Carl
- July 17 – *sponsor needed*
- July 24 – *sponsor needed*
- July 31 – *sponsor needed*

**Bulletin Sponsors for July:**

- July 3 – Cheryl Wiltout
- July 10 – *sponsor needed*
- July 17 – *sponsor needed*
- July 24 – Virginia Guinther
- July 31 – *sponsor needed*

**Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for July:**

Virginia Guinther

**Children’s Bulletin Sponsor for July:**

*sponsor needed*

**Communion Bread Sponsor:**

July 3 – *sponsor needed*

**Communion Set-up Volunteers:**

July 3 – Faye Dey

**Altar Guild for July:**

Tara Basta and Faye Dey

**Readers for July:**

- July 3 – Ty Rissmiller
- July 10 – Gladys Kline
- July 17 – Ken Keck
- July 24 – Cindy Rissmiller
- July 31 – Ken Keck

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

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members:** Holly Allen, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Rodney Keller, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, and Elaine Seip.

**Friends of the congregation:** Charlie Ackerman, John Arndt, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mitch Burkhardt, Cindy D., Earl Derr, Katie Didyoung, Rosemary Drey, John Drumheller, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Chelsea H., Peg H., Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, DeeDee K., Debra Kenny, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Harry Naugle, Johnathan Naugle, Randy Schlegel, Willow Schlegel, Tierney Schmeer, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Sptaz, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Raymond Wright, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Gabby, Jason, Lynn, Meaghan, Mike, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

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

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Nancy Bennecoff, Gery DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.



*Lutheran Pastor Peggy Hahn is the executive director of LEAD, which works to align passionate leaders, resources and practices to grow Christian leaders who grow faith communities in our world. Here are a few more thoughts she offers about what it means to be a movement. We've also included the words to two hymns we will be introducing in worship in the month of July.*

When it comes to caring about people,

\* "A movement knows itself well enough, on most days, to realize diversity, equity and inclusion makes it stronger, and takes a chance by listening to people who think differently."

\* Following Jesus teaches us that faith and action in the public arena (aka "politics") are intertwined.

### **"When the Poor Ones"**

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;  
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;  
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:

#### *Refrain*

We see God, here by our side, walking our way;  
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When compassion gives the suffering consolation;  
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;  
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us:

#### *Refrain*

When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;  
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble: *Refrain*

When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;  
when the nations work to change war into peace;  
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor:

#### *Refrain*

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951  
Text © 1971, 1998 J.A. Olivar, Miguel Manzano, and San Pablo Internacional – SSP, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Pastor Hahn continues,*

- \* A movement will speak out about bad behavior and take a stand for things that matter rather than resisting being seen as too political.
- \* "A movement asks for forgiveness when relationships are broken, when we disappoint each other, or when the experiment we tried didn't work out."

### **"Ask the Complicated Questions"**

Ask the complicated questions.  
Do not fear to be found out;  
for our God makes strong our weakness,  
forging faith in fires of doubt.

Seek the disconcerting answers,  
follow where the Spirit blows;  
test competing truths for wisdom,  
for in tension new life grows.

Knock on doors of new ideas,  
test assumptions long grown stale,  
for Christ calls from shores of wonder,  
daring us to try and fail.

For in struggle we discover  
truth both simple and profound;  
in the knocking, asking, seeking,  
we are opened, answered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
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Faithful liturgy is perhaps like water running on a rock. The hard-headed rock would be us, and the water of God's love and grace keeps flowing over us. Eventually that love and grace rubs against our hard-heartedness, wears us down, and smooths us out. It is so gradual that we may not notice, or there might be a life-changing moment when we do. Either way it is that continual putting ourselves in the water that allows the water to flow over us. That is why we bother to come here. ... In a world that speaks ever-more loudly of entertainment, throw-away goods, hyped-up events, worship continues that slow trickle over us that may gradually transform our lives to see the resurrected Christ in the gardener, on the Emmaus road, in the stranger, and in ourselves. My hope is that will be enough to lead this Institute to find where we go from here. –  
*Dr. Lorraine Brugh, Valparaiso University*

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What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? – A maybe





**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
Statement of Accounts**

**May 31, 2022**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 17,765.01
Thrivent	11,195.25
Checking	4,977.18
Youth	408.62
Fidelity	70,513.33
Cash Reserve	14,418.60
Mission Investment Fund	11,635.61
Local Care	<u>2,330.31</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 133,243.91</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **May 31, 2021** \$ 163,548.87

**May 2022 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income**

	<u>Income</u>		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,891.25	\$ 7,104.38	(\$ 2,786.87)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2022  
Budget Passed by Congregation  
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

**FREEDOM**

Each one of us is born most free  
And we alone can choose  
To do what God would have us do,  
To use what God would use.

Or we are also free to seek  
The proud and selfish way —  
A life where other gods come first  
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,  
We find that freedom’s place  
Is really in God’s will for us,  
And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*



**DON'T LET YOUR OFFERINGS TAKE A  
HOLIDAY**

Ahhh, summer! A time to relax and grab much-needed R & R. Vacations and weekend getaways may keep you away from church, but our congregation is still bustling with activity. The bills never take a summer holiday.

It’s enormously helpful to the congregation’s balance sheet if your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to come in regularly, even if you are away.

Here are some ideas for staying current:

- Pay in advance: Plan ahead by offering more in the weeks in advance of your time away from church.
- Make it up: When you return, give a little more in the weeks that follow.
- Use your envelopes: Here’s a tip that’s good not only for summer, but year-round: If you use giving envelopes and checks, simply prepare them weeks in advance and bring them to church when convenient.
- Use banking bill pay: Most online banking services will write and send checks for you. Just plug in the church address, the amount of the gift and how often you want it sent. Viola! You’re done!
- Give monthly or quarterly: Sometimes it’s hard to anticipate how many Sundays you’ll be away from church. Planning your gift, tithe or offering for monthly or quarterly can keep you current.

Of course, these methods are beneficial not only for the summer months, but also for the whole year through. Those who embrace giving as a spiritual discipline often find that their lives of faith are enriched, and their sense of joy and fulfillment is deepened. Choosing a regular-giving strategy can help you to discover the joys of generosity.

--Rob Blezard

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# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## *Stronger Together*

*"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me." (John 10:14)*

*"I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." (Mark 2:11)*

Jesus speaks: we hear his voice, and we follow. Even when we are made able to hear, by mechanical means. Even when we are blessed to move, using new and inspiring inventions. These are no less miracles than the healing of the one born blind (John 9), or the person on the mat who's unable to walk (Mark 2). Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network is a partner in ministry with us, bringing technology, compassion and faith together – by the work of the Holy Spirit – in ways that put life in motion and love in action, for God's children of all ages – especially youth. They truly make us: **STRONGER TOGETHER.**

**+ Bishop Christopher deForest**



Watching your child take his or her first steps is one of the most exciting moments in a parent's life. But what if your child has a disability and those steps don't come so easily, or at all? Through the years, parents faced with this dilemma have come to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network looking for help and finding it. One of the rehabilitation technology stars in Good Shepherd Pediatrics' toolbox is the Trexo Plus. This innovative, wearable robotic gait trainer helps children with spasticity and mobility challenges walk, perhaps for the first time. Thanks to our generous supporters, including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Good Shepherd has acquired a total of six Trexo devices in small, medium, and large sizes for children as young as 1 through their teen years. This makes Good Shepherd the only pediatric rehabilitation provider in the U.S. to offer all three sizes for both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. Children who benefit from using the life-changing technology are diagnosed with cerebral palsy, pediatric stroke, spinal cord injury, gait disorders, or other mobility problems.

The device's brightly colored legs allow children to walk hands-free safely, correctly, and consistently, all under the watchful eye of trained Good Shepherd staff. Trexo is one piece in an array of technology used by Good Shepherd Pediatrics and supported by the Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology Fund.

NEPA Synod can be proud of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network. Because of you, children will be given the opportunity to exercise their brains and muscles in a new way, gaining confidence along with mobility. Good Shepherd provides therapies and residential options unique in the US. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support! It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission.

For more information, visit [GoodShepherdPediatrics.org](http://GoodShepherdPediatrics.org).

Story Contributor: Kimberly Stolarik, Interim Administrative Director, Development  
Helping Children Through Technology



## SYNOD ASSEMBLY REWIND

### WHAT HAPPENED AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY?!?



**The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn**, Senior Director, Christian Community and Leadership Mission for the **ELCA** was the churchwide representative to our synod assembly. Rev. Vaughn enlivened the assembly with her words and brought greetings from the wider church. This representation reminds us that we are a church in three expressions: congregations, synods, and churchwide. These expressions work together to gather God's people and mobilize them to love and serve the world through mission and outreach.

This year's assembly was once again held virtually. We're getting "good" at holding virtual assemblies, but we simply cannot wait to gather in person. Next year, we'll be gathering at **Kalahari** in the Poconos, and we'll be wondering about how our synod and congregations are **going beyond death to life**. This is the "third lane" in our synod focus. Remember we've been talking about lane one, "**Growing young**" and lane two, this year's theme, "**Gaining Strength/Stronger Together**" These vital signs help us understand who we are as God's people and how we might best show up in our contexts.

This year some great **resolutions** were brought before the assembly. Some of these resolutions will be considered and acted upon by the **synod council**. The synod council is an important body within the synod. If you'd like to read the resolutions visit [godslove.org/assembly](http://godslove.org/assembly) in addition to resolutions you can view all the great videos from the assembly where churches and other groups showed their faith in action through ministries that highlighted our theme of being stronger together, growing young videos that look at fun scenarios to help individuals and congregations understand what it means to grow young, greetings from our ministry partners, and EVERY plenary is available for your viewing pleasure.

We had such an engaging time wondering what God was up to in our midst, especially in places where we're working together for the sake of God's Kingdom, here and now!

# JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	2   Pastor Ruth - VAC
3 4th Sunday of after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion ▪ Supply Pastor, Roger Timm ▪ Fellowship after worship  Pastor Ruth – VAC	4  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Pastor Ruth - VAC	5   Pastor Ruth - VAC	6 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	7 10:00am-Coloring Group  Pastor Ruth - VAC	8 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	9   Pastor Ruth - VAC
10 5th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship ▪ Supply Pastor, Glenn Simmons  Pastor Ruth – VAC	11 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth – VAC	12   Pastor Ruth - VAC	13 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	14 12:00-1:30pm-“Chew on This” at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville. Topic: Cyberfraud, Scams & Prevention”  Pastor Ruth - VAC	15 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	16 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot  Pastor Ruth - VAC
17 6th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship ▪ Potluck Picnic after worship  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	18 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting  Pastor Ruth - VAC	19   Pastor Ruth - VAC	20 12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	21   Pastor Ruth - VAC	22 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	23   Pastor Ruth - VAC
24 7th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship	25 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	26   Pastor Ruth - VAC	27 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth - VAC	28   Pastor Ruth - VAC	29   Pastor Ruth - VAC	30 5:00-8:00pm-Music Fest with The Majestics Band at Longswamp Park Pavilion  Pastor Ruth - VAC
31 8th Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Fellowship after worship					12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	