

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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WEBSITE: <https://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

(Normally Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon, but during the current times, please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)



THE MISSION OF
NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

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



Dear Friends,

June. June means summertime is officially arriving. June means school will soon be over. June promises that the weather will be warmer, the sun will shine, that plants will continue to grow and we will enjoy watching God in action in the garden, in the fields, in the night sky, in places we travel, and in folks who get to be outside more, interacting more, and playing more. June. June is awesome.

Our lessons this month shout out, "Our God is an awesome God." They remind me of a hymn that originated with Rich Mullins:

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love
Our God is an awesome God.

If you've ever heard the hymn you know it also has an awesome beat. It's the kind of music that keeps playing over and over in your head.

Our God is an awesome God. In June we hear God's answer to Job's questions about God's power and whether God loved him. God said, "Who are you to question me? Were you there when I created the earth?" God follows this with an absolutely breathtaking description of that act of creation.

Our God is an awesome God. In June we hear how the first humans audaciously rebelled against this wondrous creator, and yet, even though there were consequences for this disobedience, God promised a way back to the right relationship between God and humans.

Our God is an awesome God. In June we hear parables about what God does with just the tiniest speck, a seed, a sprig, about how the mustard seed grows into an enormous bush and a cutting from a cedar tree matures into the loftiest of trees. In the same way, Jesus tells us, the smallest action, even the planting of a word of God's love, can produce "fruit" we can't even imagine.

Our God is an awesome God. In June we hear how Jesus stilled the storm at sea and his disciples' fears. In June we hear how he stilled the storm in a father's heart when he healed a young girl.

Yes, our God is an awesome God. Rich Mullin puts it this way:

When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just puttin' on the Ritz
There is thunder in His footsteps And lightning in His fists

Well the Lord He wasn't jokin' When He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood
His return is very close and so you better be believin' That our God is an Awesome God,

When the sky was starless in the void of the night He spoke into the darkness and created the light
Judgement and wrath He poured out the Sodom Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten that Our God is an Awesome God...

May your days be filled with *awareness* of our awesome God, as well as *assurance* that God is not beyond us but is with us and loves us, including you, so very much.

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 May 10:

- Worship and Music committee recommended and council agreed to hold worship in the building on the first and third Sundays of the month and continue with Zoom worship the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays. Communion on the Parking Lot is planned for the last Saturday of each month through October.
- On Sunday, May 16, members of council and other leaders met with Pastor Rachael Dietz, Executive Associate to the Bishop for Leadership, to continue our work in discerning our future as a congregation. This process is still at the very, very early stages.

Sitting outside amidst the spring pollen affirmed the awareness of participants that our God is a God of new life, of resurrection, and that with challenges God provides help and opportunities. Stay tuned and help us listen for where God's Spirit may be leading us.

OFFERING ENVELOPES UPDATE

With the ever-increasing cost of postage to mail out the offering envelopes twice a year, council voted to discontinue the services of OneWrite Company and design and copy our own offering envelope.

Attached to this newsletter you will find an offering envelope to use for your monthly offering. Every month, thereafter, we will be including an envelope with each newsletter. If you would like to have additional envelopes, please contact the church office.

It is very important to include your name on the envelope so that you receive the proper credit as there will be no envelope numbers to reference.

We hope that with this new change, you will find it easier to either mail in your offering or bring it with you at one of our worship services in the building.

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Sunday, June 13**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

At their meeting, members of the Worship and Music Committee discussed how to offer worship opportunities and the experience of jointly partaking in the Lord's Supper to as many members as possible. Their recommendation to council is listed in the Council Highlights. This means Communion on the Parking Lot will be held the last Saturday of each month beginning in June until October.

Worship in our building June 6 and 20 at 10 a.m. Communion on the Parking Lot Saturday, June 26, at 5:00 p.m.

REMINDER ABOUT WORSHIP IN THE BUILDING

Please be assured that we will practice safe re-opening procedures. Below are the guidelines currently in place.

- Please use the entrance ramp to the old door.
- There is ample hand sanitizer located throughout the sanctuary.
- All attendees are expected to wear a mask or face covering.
- Pews are marked off to encourage proper social distancing.
- Please only sit with those with whom you have frequent contact, such as family members.
- The first to enter the building are asked to sit in the front.
- Others are asked to fill in the front first then toward the rear.
- Dismissal will be in reverse order with those in the rear exiting first.
- An offering basket is located in the entrance way.
- Services will be shorter than usual.
- Music with words for meditation or recorded anthems will substitute for singing.
- Folks are asked to greet one another outside since there will be no passing of the peace during the service.

Worship and Music Committee, the council and our task force will continue to monitor the situation and will make modifications as they deem it wise. The guiding principle is love of God and love for our neighbor, including the vulnerable among us, as we love ourselves.

OTHER WORSHIP NOTES

For services on Zoom (June 13 and 27), you can connect with Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other methods. If you are not already receiving information about how to connect, please contact the church office. Links will now also be listed in the bulletins.

Bulletins are being mailed or emailed to those who request them so that they can worship at home. If you would like to receive one, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or njelchurch@windstream.net.

Bulletins are also available on our website.

Those not able to join a Zoom service, can watch them later on our Facebook page or on our website under the “Zoom Worship Services” tab.

Our website is:

<https://newjerusalemlutheran.weebly.com>

LINK FOR ZOOM WORSHIP

New Jerusalem Sunday Worship

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89499550266?pwd=Mnl3bmxCMkI3TDIHZGlrNXVaVVlmZz09>

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266** Passcode: **27**

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89499550266# US (Chicago)

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group is currently studying Paul’s letter to the Romans. In this letter Paul spells out many of the core concepts of our Christian faith. It is in reading this letter that Martin Luther discovered God’s grace, that we are saved by God’s undeserved love and not by works. Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, June 7, 21, and 28 at 11:00 a.m.** via Zoom Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, June 3, 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.

FLEECE BLANKETS FOR CAMP NOAH

Willing to help cut and/or tie fleece blankets for Camp Noah? Let Betty Eshbach or Pastor Ruth know. This year a Camp Noah will be held at the Oley Fairgrounds August 2–6 for children kindergarten through 6th grade. More information to follow.

THREADS FOR OTHERS

Keep on knitting and crocheting for the Seafarers. If you need material to make masks or yarn for cowls and hats for seafarers, let Pastor Ruth know.

JUNE WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15.00 for a month. If you would like to sponsor any of the available dates below, please leave a message on the church answering machine with your dedication. Thank you!

Since the pandemic limits our ability to gather, we are now mailing bulletins to members. The cost for that is about \$45 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

Altar Flowers for June:

June 6 – sponsor needed

June 20 – sponsor needed

Bulletin Sponsors for June:

June 6 – Virginia Guinther

June 13 – Gladys Kline

June 20 – sponsor needed

June 27 – sponsor needed

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for June:

sponsor needed

WITH SYMPATHY

We send our condolences to the family and friends of Ernest Sheetz who died on April 13. A service celebrating his resurrection was held on April 20. Ernest was Verna Guinther’s brother and Jeannette DeLong’s cousin.

We also express our sympathy to the family of Leon W. (Whip) Moyer who passed away on Tuesday, May 4, in his residence. He was the widow of Phyllis (Kutz) Moyer, who died on July 5, 2014. A memorial service celebrating Leon’s life was held on Monday, May 10, at Ludwick Funeral Home in Kutztown.

SAVE THE DATE

A Festival featuring The Majestics is being planned for **Saturday, September 11th**. The Stewardship Committee will be asking for a Thrivent Grant to help support this.

Watch for these other projects:

- Tying fleece blankets for Camp Noah
- Additional support for the Brandywine Food Pantry.
- Additional support for the Lutheran Center Food Pantry
- Supplemental supplies for Seafarer's satchels.

In addition to these drives, the Stewardship Committee is working on developing an inventory of our resources, as a way of assisting the congregation in discernment of our call to ministry.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP IN THE PARK

On Sunday, August 1, we will gather with other neighboring congregations for worship in Bowers Park. Look for more details to follow.

BECAUSE OF YOU

Here's another *glimpse* of what was made possible because of contributions you and others made to ELCA good gifts in 2020:



- 26 scholarships were provided for International Women Leaders students.
- 3 boreholes were drilled for clean water access in Zimbabwe.
- 121 Missionary households serving alongside our global companion churches were given assistance.
- 297 Lutheran students are attending ELCA seminaries with support from the ELCA Fund For Leaders scholarships.
- 646 families are experiencing improved food production after an irrigation canal was installed in Nucaragua. *

* For Zulema and others in her community, everything changed with farmer's training and an irrigation installation supported by the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope and supported by your ELCA Good Gifts. Although her family has known how to work the land, now they've diversified the crops they grow – growing corn, beans, cucumbers, watermelons and squash. "For me, it is God's blessing to participate in the services in my community," Zulema says. "All my life I have dedicated to working in the fields. My family knows how to work the land. This project helped us

with resources, especially with knowledge of how production improves, caring for the soil, producing different foods. This will help us always have food."

Together we share God's love at home and around the world.

THE POTATO PROJECT (IHARTHARVEST) CONTINUES

Volunteers' plows have been busy plowing up the fields and planting new seeds for 2021. Here's what was harvested in 2020:

- sweet corn – 6,500 pounds
- potatoes – 65,781 pounds
- 1 bin sugar pumpkins and 3 bins butternut squash

Which equals approximately 72,461 pounds of produce harvested and donated locally.

This harvest was valued at \$55,070.36 @ \$.76/pound.

Approximately 13,000 families (32,500 souls) in the region were fed with that the 2020 harvest. Despite the pandemic, 229 volunteers came to help. With God's blessing even more volunteers will be able to help in 2021 and bring in an even more bountiful harvest.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER DEFOREST INSTALLATION SERVICE

You're invited to the installation of our new bishop, Christopher deForest at the end of Synod Assembly on June 5th. Whether or not you attend the assembly, you're invited to participate fully in the installation worship, which will be broadcast live on YouTube at the link below for all to join in and witness this truly joyous occasion. Bishop Christopher deForest's Installation Service link: <https://youtu.be/MoI8iouKYZ8>. More links to the Synod Assembly can be found on the synod's website at www.godslove.org under the Synod Assembly 2021 tab.

SAUSAGE SANDWICH SALE

Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, will be holding a Sausage Sandwich Sale on **Saturday, June 5th**. Cost is \$5.00 per sandwich. Pick-up beginning at 10:00 a.m. until sold out. Mark your calendars for a future sale on Saturday, August 7th.

FAMILY IN NEED

Christ Mertz, Dryville, is sponsoring a charity GoFundMe for a family whose home was severely damaged by fire on Easter evening. They've registered through GoFundMe Charity. The family had homeowner's insurance, but with the cost of building supplies escalating and the lack of availability of supplies, this pushes the limits of their insurance policy. Since it is an older home, complying to codes makes things more expensive as well as having to replace fixtures and appliances. If you can help to help ease the financial worry and strain on this family, please click on the following link to place your financial donation:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/mark-and-sue-smith-fire-restoration-fund>

SUPER SATURDAYS

The Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team presents Super Saturdays. Workshops will be held virtually on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$5.00. Please register in advance at www.cvent.com/d/fjq1wn. Log-in information will be sent to registrants two days before the event. Each workshop will feature a guest presenter. For a description of each workshop, check out the synod website at www.godslove.org.

AS COVID-19 CONTINUES TO RAVAGE THE WORLD, LUTHERANS CONTINUE TO RESPOND

While we are so ready to be done with the virus known as COVID-19, the virus is not ready to be done with us, especially not with our brothers and sisters in India and Nepal. The desperate scenes and stories we hear leave many wondering what can be done to help, and often feeling helpless in the face of such devastation. And yet we know our God is a God of life, not death. Confident in that faith Lutherans continue to actively respond.

FAITHS4VACCINES

In the beginning of May we received word from Kathryn M. Lohre, ELCA Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, that the ELCA is involved in a program called Faiths4Vaccines. This multifaith movement has the following shared goals:

- Demonstrate religious communities' trust in the vaccine

- Support houses of worship and faith communities to innovatively distribute vaccines
- Advocate and advance equitable vaccine distribution
- Create space for multi-faith collaboration
- Pave the way for global, equitable vaccine distribution

Faiths4Vaccines is effective because it galvanizes the social capital of religious communities while leveraging long-standing ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships. The coalition takes a multipronged approach, recognizing that some faith communities can offer their facilities as vaccine sites while others are able to counter vaccine hesitancy as a result of racialized health disparities and abuses, while still others are equipped to advocate for equitable distribution. What unites the coalition is the shared conviction of people of faith that vaccinations will help us resume the life in community for which we were created.

LDR “Asia-Pacific Disaster Response”

Those of us who recognize the initials “LDR” as “Lutheran Disaster Response” often think in terms of response to natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes. Yet, its response is broader.

For the past year, LDR has supported companion churches and partners throughout India and around the world as they raise awareness about COVID-19, provide personal protective equipment and distribute sanitation supplies to vulnerable communities.

Padhar Hospital, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh, has a ward dedicated to COVID-19 patients. Unfortunately, the hospital is currently being forced to turn away patients because it lacks the space and oxygen to support them. Lutheran Disaster Response is helping Padhar Hospital purchase an oxygen generator for its COVID-19 ward so it can treat more patients and not have to turn away people suffering with COVID-19. The work of Padhar Hospital is just one example of how our companions and faith-based partners continue to bring relief to communities during the pandemic.

Gifts designated for LDR's “Asia-Pacific Disaster Response” will be used entirely (100%) to provide help and hope through a direct response to COVID-19 in India and to other disasters in the region.

Lutheran World Relief – working in India and Nepal

As we heard about and watched the devastation COVID-19 is ... across India, we received this message from Lutheran World Relief.

As the healthcare system nears total collapse, the scenes are heartbreaking — families holding sick loved ones in the street, having been turned away from hospitals. Smoke from makeshift crematoriums billowing into the sky.

Lutheran World Relief is working hard to make the difference between life and death for the desperately sick by delivering oxygen, ventilators, pulse oximeters and personal protective equipment to hospitals across India.

Even as we send out this message about India, we are aware that the situation in nearby Nepal is about to become equally as desperate, so LWR will continue to monitor the situation and find ways to offer assistance.

As a point of clarification, Lutheran Disaster Response is an arm of our national church, the ELCA. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is an inter-Lutheran and international non-governmental organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery. It is the agency through which we send quilts around the world. The two agencies are complementary. Each is able to mobilize and deliver assistance to address specific needs throughout the world. Sometimes one can offer assistance more efficiently to a specific situation than the other can.

To contribute to LDR - *Make checks payable to "ELCA" - note "Asia-Pacific Disaster Response" on the memo line, and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.*

Contributions to Lutheran World Relief should be sent to: Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061 Baltimore, MD 21297-1061, or call +1 (800) 597-5972 to make a secure credit card donation.

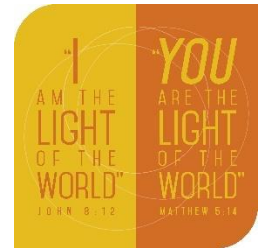
“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” – The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SEE LIGHT, BE LIGHT

In January 2021, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman presented her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the presidential inauguration. The final lines read: “For there is always light, / if only we’re brave enough to see it. / If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

How often we long for light! In recent years we’ve agonized amid pandemic, angry politics and new awareness of racism. Some have suffered deep sorrow. But Jesus says, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12) and invites us to turn to him. God is always bringing light into darkness, through helpers, healers, peacemakers, friends. Sometimes bravery is required to turn our focus from the negative to the positive—to see the light of God.

Jesus also says, “*You* are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14, emphasis added) and calls us to brighten the gloom. That requires bravery, as Gorman notes, but as Christians we’re urged to look for light not just to make our own lives better but to shine into others’ lives too. The Holy Spirit gives us the needed courage—to both *see* and **be** light.



Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

STARS AND STRIPES

Since the early 1800s various groups have observed a day to display the American flag. Presidents Woodrow Wilson (in 1916) and Calvin Coolidge (in 1927) issued proclamations marking June 14 as National Flag Day. But it wasn’t until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved June 14 as a day of national observance. President Harry Truman signed it into law.



The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. In fact, the United States didn’t have a standardized flag until 1912! And even after standardization, the flag changed three more times with the addition of new stars representing new states.

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



- 2 Todd Wagaman
- 2 Kristi Rahn
- 2 Abigail Keller
- 9 Glenn Allen
- 11 Grace Miller
- 15 Julian Tich
- 16 Bradley Musser
- 18 Brenda Wagaman
- 18 Charli Rissmiller
- 19 Betty Musser
- 19 Diane Keller
- 20 Jason Keller
- 24 Betty Eshbach
- 26 Amanda Cleaver
- 30 Verna Guinther
- 30 Nathan Keller



- 3 Glenn and Holly Allen (32 years)
- 26 Ted and Betty Eshbach (27 years)
- 26 Jason and Regina Kohl (17 years)
- 27 Elwood and Katie Ellen Cleaver (57 years)
- 27 Larry and Faye Dey (57 years)
- 29 Lloyd and Linda Moyer (53 years)



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

March 31, 2021

| <u>Asset Accounts</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Memorial | \$ 21,241.67 |
| Thrivent | 10,396.38 |
| Checking | 6,026.76 |
| Youth | 406.54 |
| Fidelity | 87,010.71 |
| Cash Reserve | 24,413.76 |
| Mission Investment | 11,569.98 |
| Local Care | 2,090.31 |
| Total: | <u>\$ 163,156.11</u> |

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **March 31, 2020** \$ 165,587.24

March 2021 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

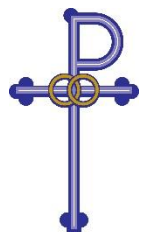
| | Income Required | Actual Income | Difference |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <u>Used For:</u> | | | |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 9,651.25 | \$ 4,681.00 | (\$ 4,970.25) |

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2021
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

DID YOU KNOW?

WEDDING SYMBOL

This version of the Chi Rho features two interlocking rings on a cross. It symbolizes the partnership a husband and wife make with God as they unite. The Wedding Cross also symbolizes a couple's commitment to grow together in God's grace and love.





IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE HAS APPLIED
FOR A THRIVENT GRANT TO SUPPLEMENT
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOOD PANTRY
DURING JUNE AND JULY**

Here is the latest list of needs:

In the light of concerns about increased food needs in response to COVID-19 and possible challenges of delivering items to the food bank – please consider a generous monetary donation. We will keep you posted with information from the food pantry. 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.**

Donated items in “much” need right now: coffee, fruit juices, sugar, flour, mayonnaise, ketchup, spaghetti sauce, ramen noodles or cup of noodles, beef stew, Chicken-ala-King, canned meat (such as tuna, chicken breast or Spam), Chef Boyardee style canned items (such as beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), instant potatoes, pasta or rice sides, snacks of all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), shampoo, bar soap, body wash, and laundry detergent. ***We do not currently need: corn, green beans, mixed vegetables, or tomato soup.***

The pantry is always in need of the following items:

Canned fruits: pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail, applesauce, etc.

Canned vegetables: creamed corn, sweet peas, carrots, beets, sliced potatoes, yams

Canned goods: diced tomatoes, tomato sauce

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

Drinks: hot or cold tea, water

Extra: peanut butter, marshmallow fluff, jelly

Dry goods: stuffing mix, Rice-a-Roni, ramen noodles, rice

Baking items: cake or brownie mix, frosting

Breakfast food: oatmeal, pop tarts, cereal bars

Paper products: tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

Personal care items: 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.

As always, thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

**PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD’S
PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or**

in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT

Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, George DeLong, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Family and friends of Leon Moyer, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Dan and Joanne Pauley, Horace and Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, Gary and Vikie Seyfert.

Friends of the congregation: Michael Basta, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Joshua Buck, Cindy Dendy, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Nicole F., Harry Geidner, Dennis Grof, Jason Grof, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Debra Kenny, Barry Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Rodney Miller, Johnathan Naugle, Ruth Ramsey, Tierney Schmeer, Patricia Sigfried, Thomas Spraut, Robert Taylor, Jacqi Wagner, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and systemic racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to 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: Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, David Jenkins, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Joanne Pauley, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, the Spatz Family, and Leah Wiest.

STEWARDED OUR RELATIONSHIPS: REHAB, RENEW AND REPAIR

Doctors order rehabilitation – intensive exercises and therapy – for patients to regain muscle strength and flexibility after a serious illness or injury.

The time is right for us to use the same approach for our friendships and family relationships after COVID-19. The worst may seem over [for us] now that the vaccines are percolating through our nation, and we are entering the summer, when it is comfortable to gather in the relative safety of the outdoors.

It will take serious rehab to repair and renew the friendships and family relationships that COVID-19 forced us to neglect. Hunkered down in our homes for safety, we ceased gathering for friendship, fellowship and recreation – the very activities that keep relationships strong. Churches put worship and social gatherings on hold.

The pandemic's impact on relationships wielded a double whammy: It left us stressed and needing friends at the very time that COVID-19 prevented us from tending to our relationships. It has left us disconnected and hurting.

Keeping in mind that the COVID-19 risk is diminished but not gone, as summer unfolds, you can look for safe ways to rehab, renew and repair your relationships.

Reach out: Go through your list of friends and contact them by phone, email, text – whatever's best. Tell them you missed them and want to get together.

Make plans: Don't put it off. Be creative and find safe ways to get together. Outdoors is safer. Backyard barbecues, coffee at a sidewalk café, a walk, a game of bocce, iced tea on the porch. It's all good.

Every little step you take will help your relationship “muscles” to get stronger, and in the process you'll become healthier as the love, support and joy of friends and family flows into your heart.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com

Real strength is neither male nor female but is, quite simply, one of the finest characteristics that any human being can possess. – Fred Rogers

A THANK YOU FROM A TEACHER AT OLCHOKI SCHOOL

Remember the stove we helped to purchase for Olchoki Primary School in Arusha, Tanzania? Before Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA) started the lunch program at this school, there was no water on campus and many of the 1400 children did not get a regular meal at home. Attendance was poor and the learning and passing rates were low. With the feeding program students are now showing up at school, learning, and their passing at rates that were unthinkable before the program started.

I, Ms. Janeth Shayo, supervisor of the lunch program from OBA (Operation Bootstrap Africa), on behalf of my fellow teachers, parents of students and all students of Olchoki Primary School, express our sincere THANKS to the heart of love and care you show us by providing food for our students. All parents here are very grateful to you for continuing to help them donate food. The lunch at school has greatly helped reduce the issue of absenteeism, as well as raise the pass rate. At present all children love the school.

In our solidarity with the entire Olchoki community, we recognize and appreciate the great work you are doing. We have nothing to pay you, but we pray to God to further bless you, take care of you, give you good health, and protect you from all dangers. Especially the Corona disaster.

We wish you long life. God bless you so much.

THANK YOU.

Janeth Shayo

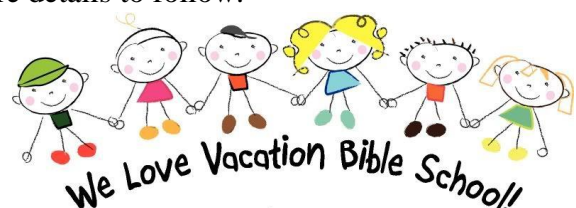
Donations to Operation Bootstrap Africa continue to help provide meals for these students.

COMING SOON: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Christ Mertz: July 19-23 *Treasured*

St. Paul's Mertztown: August 1-5, 6:30-8:00 *BOLT*

More details to follow.



Join Us
this Summer



Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!



Conundrums of creation

God's creation is filled with amazing and sometimes puzzling works.

Directions: Use the bank of picture clues to answer the riddles.



You can hold but not touch this. _____

Before using this, you must break it. ____

This falls without getting hurt. _____

This gets bigger the more you take away. _____

This has an eye but cannot see. _____

"In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the ____.

It is like ... a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth."

PSALM 19:4-6, NIV

Answer: breath, egg, rain, hole, hurricane, sun

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2021 & MinLab

We'll be gathering together virtually to conduct the business of this church all the while we're working toward "Growing Young and Vital". Our assembly is virtual to protect the most vulnerable around us, but we will be holding an in-person Ministry Laboratory (MinLab) on August 14, 2021. The MinLab will be held at the Lutheran Center. It's open to anyone, even people who were not voting members to the Synod Assembly. The Lab will allow participants to engage, in real time, with ministry ideas, congregations already participating in ministry projects, and allow space for participants to experiment with ideas, eat good food, and have fun!

Together we'll wonder about how we're healing the hurting, loving the land, and engaging the stranger. More information coming soon!

ELCA Elects The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer, First Trans Bishop



CHICAGO (May 10, 2021) — **The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer (they/their)**, San Francisco, Calif., was elected May 8 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Rohrer is the first transgender bishop in the ELCA. The election took place during an online synod assembly.

Rohrer was elected on the fifth ballot, with 209 votes. The Rev. Jeff R. Johnson, pastor of University



Are you doing ministry with LGBTQIA+ youth?

Would you like to do more?

June is **Pride Month**, which is a time for Queer Folx to celebrate their gender identity and sexuality with other Queer Folx and allies. In celebration of pride month, people around our synod are reading *Made Known and Loved*.

Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry builds on experience and wisdom developed through The Naming Project, a ministry created at the intersection of youth, faith, and LGBTQ identity. Ministry cofounder Ross Murray shows congregations how to examine their values and create a program that affirms LGBTQ youth in their faith and their identity, accepts and welcomes diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and equips future leaders for the church and the LGBTQ community.

Available at Augsburg

Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley in Berkeley, Calif., received 207 votes.

The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco since 2014 and as community chaplain coordinator for the San Francisco Police Department since 2018. They served as executive director of the Welcome Ministry in San Francisco from 2002 to 2014, assistant night minister for the San Francisco Night Ministry from 2013 to 2018 and community garden coordinator at Project Homeless Connect from 2010 to 2012. Rohrer also served as pastor of a multiparish call serving the homeless and hungry at Welcome Ministry from 2006 to 2014.

Rohrer received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana University in Sioux Fall, S.D., in 2001, a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 2005, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2017. Rohrer is currently a doctoral candidate in transformative studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Augustana is one of 26 ELCA colleges and universities.

Rohrer's installation is scheduled for Sept. 11 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek, Calif. The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud has served as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod since 2008 and will retire June 30.



JUNE 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | 1 | 2 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 3 10:00am-Coloring Group | 4 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Synod Assembly | 5 10:00am-Sausage Sandwich Sale, Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers Synod Assembly |
| 6 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in the building | 7 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 8 | 9 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 10 | 11 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 12 |
| 13 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom | 14 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. FLAG DAY | 15 | 16 11:30am-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon (location TBD) 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 17 | 18 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 19 |
| 20 4th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in the building HAPPY FATHER'S DAY | 21 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting | 22 | 23 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 24 | 25 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 26 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot |
| 27 5th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom | 28 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | 29 | 30 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. | | | |