

## THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

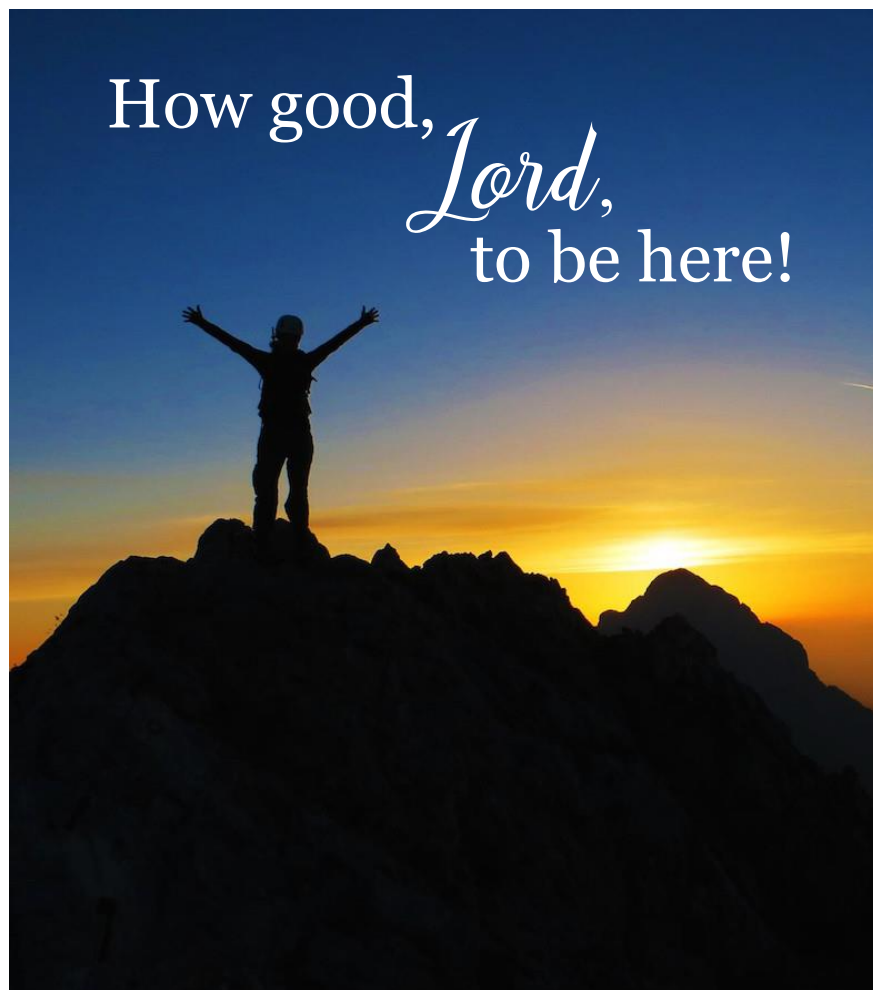
E-MAIL: [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net)

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

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.)*



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.*



How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;  
your face and garments like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.

- Joseph Robinson  
ELW #315, used with permission

Dear Friends,

In March we move from the season of Epiphany, of revelation, into Lent, a time of repentance. Lent is a time for being honest with and about ourselves and turning to God for help in being all that God designed us to be. The hymn above refers to the transfiguration, when Jesus and three disciples were up on a mountain and Jesus' appearance changed. Moses and Elijah appeared, and God's voice sounded. There could be no doubt in the minds of Peter, James and John that Jesus was the Son of God, doing God's will, even if they continued having trouble understanding Jesus methods for bringing in God's kingdom.

A few weeks ago, I was working on the lesson from Luke 6:17 to 38. In the verses prior to that lesson, Jesus was up on a mountain with those he had chosen to be apostles, those he would send out to spread the good news of the coming of the kingdom of God. Verse 17 says Jesus then took the apostles down the mountain with him and stood on a level place. A level place. Not above or below, but a level place where a large crowd of his disciples had gathered. People had come from all over who had come to hear him and be healed. Jesus took his chosen ones down to the crowd and they stood with him on this level place. He took them to stand among those who had come from far and wide to hear him and be healed. This was on the job training. They were to be among the people.

The thoughts on the back of the bulletin for that Sunday comment that Jesus' stark words in verses 20-38, words of blessings and woes, to love our enemies, etc., "reach across the page and the years to call us [as individuals and] the church, to examine our hearts, our relationships, and even our society. A level plain invites us to look our neighbors in the eyes, to hear their stories, to see their humanity. It forces us out of our bubbles. . .and our circles of people who look just like us and who see the world in the same ways we do."

I think there is even more for us in this idea of "level." As we look forward to spring, many are getting ready for sports. We often talk about the importance of "leveling the playing field." It is literally important for a playing field to be level so the players don't trip and so that one end isn't uphill from the other. But figuratively, it is important for each team and each player to have a fair chance to play, to participate. For a sport to truly be a sport, we don't want one team to have an "unfair advantage."

Lent is the time when we are invited to examine ourselves according to how God wants us to think and act. Lent is a time to acknowledge that we are no better than anyone else, that we have fallen short of what God wants. Lent is a time to remind us to come down from feeling we are "one up," that we are a step above anyone else. Lent is a time to admit that we are in that crowd of people waiting to hear from and be healed by Jesus. Lent is also the time to experience Jesus being *with* us on that plain, looking *us* straight in the eye, *choosing* to be with *us*, *accepting us* just the way we are and *empowering* us to live as God's children.

Lent is also the time to hear Jesus send us out from that plain, send us out to proclaim and bring in the kingdom of God. Lent is the time to hear and respond to Jesus' command to be a part of leveling the playing field of life for all of God's children so that we may all live abundantly. And Lent is the time to remember that we do not go alone.

Let us go forth in peace, stirred from our complacency.

*Pastor Ruth*

How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;  
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

# NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on February 14th:

- A motion was made to accept the following council officers: Ted Eshbach as President, Ty Rissmiller as Vice President, and Cindy Rissmiller as Secretary.
- Larry Dey gave a report from the Cemetery Board. He said he will contact the cemetery lawyer to clarify the deeds to the cemetery and the church.
- Saturday, July 30, was set as the tentative date for a concert featuring The Majestics.
- Three Discerning Our Future meetings have been held so far with members of New Jerusalem attending. After the meetings are finished, Pastor Ruth will share the thoughts expressed and explore with council and other committee members what the next steps are that need to be taken.
- A motion was made to present two amendments to the Constitution. The first would be to change the minimum number of members of council from the current 10-12 to 8. The second would change the required number of voting members at a Congregational Meeting from 25 to 20. Amending the Constitution requires 2 Congregational Meetings. The first one will be held on April 10, 2022.

**APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is **Sunday, March 20th**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS** on Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes from One Write are not being mailed because of the cost to produce and mail them. An offering envelope is included in this newsletter and will be included in each newsletter hereafter. If you would like to have additional envelopes on hand, please contact the church office and some can be mailed to you. Thank you!

## WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

We are now worshipping in our building every Sunday.

Bulletins will continue to be mailed or emailed to those who request them so that those who cannot be present can join in worship at home. If you would like to receive one, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net). Bulletins are also available on our website.

If, for some unforeseen reason (e.g. inclement weather, a rise in the risk of infection, etc.) we are not able to worship in the building we may be able to temporarily revert to Zoom. In this case you will be able to connect with Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other devices. Links will now also be listed in the bulletins or you can call the church office if you need more information.

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. Website: <https://newjerusalemlutheran.weebly.com>.

## PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY IN CASE WE NEED TO USE ZOOM FOR 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**



Let us welcome our new members, Lydia Seip, Carson Seip, Logan Seip, Carole Herbert, and Mark Zeleznick. We are so happy to have them as part of our church family.



# LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will again be joining together with various churches belonging to the Brandywine Ministerium to celebrate Lent. The theme for this year is "Why did Jesus have to die?" The Wednesday midweek Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m.

- March 2 **Ash Wednesday**  
Imposition of Ashes and Communion  
Christ Mertz, Dryville  
Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty  
and St. Paul's, Mertztown and Trinity,  
Topton at 7:00 p.m.
- March 9 Christ Mertz, Dryville  
Preacher: Pastor Scott Lingenfelter  
TOPIC: A Ransom for Many: The Cross  
as Redemption
- March 16 St. Peter's, Topton  
Preacher: Pastor Martin Milne  
TOPIC: Lamb of God: The Cross as  
Atonement
- March 23 Hope, Bowers  
Preacher: Crystal Angstadt  
TOPIC: See What Love: The Cross as  
Demonstration
- March 30 Trinity, Topton  
Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty  
TOPIC: Father, Forgive Them: The  
Cross as Reconciliation
- April 6 Christian Community, Mertztown  
Preacher: Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman  
TOPIC: The Happy Exchange: The  
Cross as Investment
- April 13 St. Paul's, Mertztown  
Preacher: Pastor Dan Hofstetter  
TOPIC: The Cross as Glory
- April 14 **Maundy Thursday**  
Hope, Bowers  
Preacher: Pastor Martin Milne  
and St. Paul's, Mertztown and Trinity,  
Topton at 7:00 p.m.

April 15 **Good Friday**  
New Jerusalem at 12:00 noon

and St. Paul's, Mertztown and Trinity,  
Topton at 7:00 p.m.

April 16 **Easter Vigil**  
New Jerusalem, Communion on the  
Parking Lot at 5:00 p.m.

## UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

Our current guidelines are listed below but may change as the infection rate changes around us. The guiding principle is love of God, love for our neighbor, including the vulnerable among us, and respect for those who are doing their best to lead the congregation.

- 1) For the time being, seating will be every other pew.
- 2) Masks are expected to be worn as an act of love and respect for others. Singing is to be done softly, and only when wearing a mask.
- 3) Communion will be held the first Sunday of the month in your pew.

The 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.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group is now studying Revelation. This month we will meet on **Mondays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 11:00 a.m.** in the church building. 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, March 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.



## MARCH WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost of sponsoring Altar Flowers is now **\$40.00** per week. 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! We are mailing bulletins to many members. The cost for that is about \$45.00 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

### Altar Flower sponsors for March:

March 6 – *sponsor needed*  
March 13 – Dale Schwoyer  
March 20 – *sponsor needed*  
March 27 – *sponsor needed*

### Bulletin Sponsors for March:

March 6 – Gladys Kline  
March 13 – *sponsor needed*  
March 20 – Cheryl Wiltrout  
March 27 – *sponsor needed*

### Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for March:

*sponsor needed*

### Children's Bulletin Sponsor for March:

*sponsor needed*

## BERKS COUNTY JAIL

In a conversation with one of the chaplains at the Berks County Jail we learned that there is a great need for soft-covered Bibles and for bookmarks. If, as you gaze around your house, you notice you have a soft-covered Bible of any translation that you would like to donate, please bring it to the church or call pastor so she can pick it up. The same with bookmarks. Many of us receive all kinds of bookmarks in the mail.



## SUPPLIES FOR KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY PANTRY AT THE LUTHERAN CENTER

With the help of a Thrivent Grant, \$250.00 worth of food and personal care items was delivered to the pantry in January. Donations can still be brought to the church or delivered directly.

## HELP LIFE SKILLS STUDENTS ASSIST THE BACKPACK BUDDIES PROGRAM

We have received word from Special Education Teacher, Ms. Samantha McLean, at Brandywine Heights High School that her Life Skills Class students are working to support the Backpack Buddies initiative (Backpack Buddies arranges food to be sent home with children identified as food insecure). The high school class is truly involved with every step of the Backpack Buddies program — from inventory, creating a shopping list, shopping, checking out, restocking the pantry, filling and delivering the backpacks. Each week these students get to practice real-world life skills while supporting such a beneficial program. By providing gift cards to Weis Markets we can not only help provide food for the Backpack Buddies, but also help our life skills students learn and mature. Gift cards of any denomination can be brought or sent to the church with a note that they are for the Life Skills program.

## MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATE

Have you dropped your landline phone number, changed your cell phone number or your email address? Korinne is working on an update to the Member Directory. Please notify the church office with any updates or you can click below to update your information.



Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed  
Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

Lent  begins Wednesday, March 2

The churches participating in Congregation Conversations and Ministries with Seniors are sharing information about different forms of ministry in their congregations and inviting others to join in the activities. Here is some news from Trinity, Topton.

### JAMES MEN'S MINISTRY (JMM)

Trinity's James Men's Ministry meets for breakfast the third Saturday of each month. They start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m. These gatherings are open to all men, not just men from Trinity. If you would like to learn more of how to join this fellowship, please contact Denny Evans at 484-648-1506 or dennyevans66@gmail.com.

#### James Men's



#### Ministry

The JMM also supports **Hope Rescue Mission** by serving dinner at the mission every Tuesday evening. This volunteer opportunity is open to all. If you would like to help on any Tuesday evening from 5:15 p.m. to about 8:00 p.m. give Larry Heimbach a call at 610-597-0193. Larry coordinates the volunteer schedule, and he can always use more help.

### CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

**Save the Date: Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** is when local congregations will meet at St. Paul's, Mertztown and share the many ways they are ministering. Each congregation will have a table to display ways God is working through them and there will be breakout rooms to learn more and try out some specific activities (for example, we could have pages to color, quilts to help tie, and even offer tips on crocheting and knitting for Seafarers). Food and drinks will also be offered with the proceeds going to Friend, Inc.

Our hope is that this will be a fun time, encourage folks to join in a ministry that strikes their fancy, inspire one another, and be a time of praise for the many ways God's Spirit is working in our community.

### THE MAJESTICS RETURN – SATURDAY, JULY 30th

Save this date as well for an evening of fun and toe tapping, hand clapping music with "The Majestics." Other congregations will be assisting us with setup and food.

THANK YOU!  
*thank you!*

Dear New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you for your generous gift of \$100.00 to ministries of the ELCA through ELCA Good Gifts. Your Good Gift is very good indeed. With seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives. Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you! With gratitude, *Rachel Wind, Executive for*

(NOTE: \$100.00 is the amount passed through the New Jerusalem account. Most folks sent theirs directly to the ELCA.)



- 3 Linda Guinther
- 13 Judith Kemmerer
- 18 Sara Moyer
- 19 Lucille Jones
- 21 Cindy Rissmiller
- 25 Barbara Johnson
- 25 Lillian Jones
- 26 Donald Gajewski
- 28 Jerry Keller



- 5 Gladys Kline and Earl Derr (6 years)

Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible." —Mary McLeod Bethune

Faith

## ASH WEDNESDAY STEWARDSHIP

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” - *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 254

With these ancient words from Genesis 3:19 and the swipe of a dirty thumb across our foreheads, Ash Wednesday propels us into Lent with the proper context to understand our lives as stewards of the riches God entrusts to us.

The essential teaching of Ash Wednesday – that we are just mortals, after all – crushes our ego, dispels our pretensions, and drives us deep into God’s mysteries. Why are we here? What are our lives all about? What’s *really* important? Pray over these questions and profound insights emerge.

**We are dust.** Yes, but we are *God’s* dust. Our body consists of trillions of atoms, each a speck of “dust” created by of God, billions of years ago. God put us together from the stuff of the universe.

- Therefore, we are quite literally “earthy” beings, made of the same material as air, water, soil and stone. Part of creation, we work to preserve sustain God’s creation for future generations.
- Therefore, we revere and care for our bodies through healthy living.

**We are breath.** We are not *only* dust. Genesis 2:7 describes us as “dust” into which God has “breathed the Holy breath of life.” Our lives are the breath of God in our dust.

- Therefore, every breath we take is holy, a prayer that whispers God’s praise.
- Therefore, we look to God to align our lives with God’s holy reality that arcs towards peace, love, joy, justice, and truth.

**Our time is brief.** The “dust” that is us *will* return to the earth. We have a finite number of minutes.

- Therefore, every hour, every second is sacred. There is not a single moment one to waste. We spend our time wisely, carefully, prayerfully.
- Therefore, we do not cling to our possessions, knowing that we will leave it all behind.
- Therefore, we nourish our lives with lasting treasures – relationships, trust, love, joy, service, generosity, and harmony.

This Lent spend time in prayer, with openness and honesty. See how God will transforming you into

the person you were created to be. Reflect each day on Ash Wednesday. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2022, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com)



Volunteer tutors are needed for the Ready. Set. Read! program that runs for 1 hour from 3:15-4:15 p.m. every Wednesday from February 2 to May 25 at the Brandywine Heights Elementary School in Topton. This is an opportunity for volunteers to work with 2nd grade students to support their growth in reading instruction. The goal is to create a meaningful partnership between the tutor/volunteer and student. If you are interested in helping out, you can find a program guide, a link to watch a training video, and a link for the registration form (registration is completed through the United Way) listed below. For more information and details, contact Janelle Moser at 610.682.5171 or [janmos@bhasd.org](mailto:janmos@bhasd.org).

Program Guide: <https://bit.ly/3zHUSH8>

Tutor Training Video: <https://youtu.be/08msua7FWqY>

Registration Form: <https://bit.ly/3Gd1tvH>







A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss the use of his car.

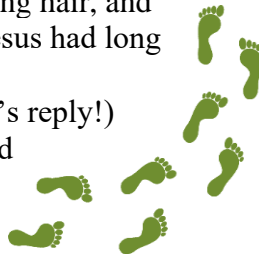
His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut, then we'll talk about the car." The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply!)  
"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went...?"

- Source unknown



At our council meeting on Monday, February 14, the following members were elected as council officers and those members continuing on council:

Ted Eshbach	President
Ty Rissmiller	Vice President
Cindy Rissmiller	Secretary
Lisa Landis	Treasurer

Betty Eshbach  
Joshua Keck  
Diane Keller

We congratulate them and thank them for their service to New Jerusalem Lutheran Church.

Thank you also to Gladys Kline and Sara Jane Beshore who served for the past several years on council and continue to serve New Jerusalem in many ways.

## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

January 31, 2022

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 22,044.92
Thrivent	11,896.77
Checking	5,742.63
Youth	406.60
Fidelity	63,558.36
Cash Reserve	24,417.54
Mission Investment Fund	11,618.48
Local Care	<u>2,320.31</u>
	Total: <u>\$ 142,005.61</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **January 31, 2021** \$ 167,681.51

### January 2022 – 'Actual' vs. 'Required' Income

	Income		
Income	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating	\$ 9,891.25	\$ 3,413.00	(\$ 6,478.25)
Expenses			

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

### UPDATE ON SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

In 2021:

- 18,523 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from their services.
- 2,162 received Christmas-at-Sea satchels.
- 1,081 lodging nights were provided to 101 seafarers in Manhattan.
- 15,232 seafarers were visited and counseled on.
- 1,477 ships, receiving the essentials they had requested.
- 791 seafarers were transported to the mall or medical facilities.

Other news: Folks at Trinity, Topton heard about our involvement and also are starting to knit and crochet for this project.

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I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

-Mother Teresa



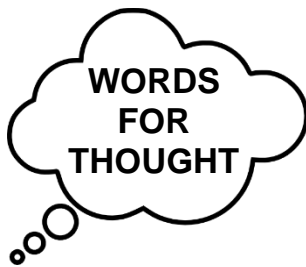
## LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (LIRS)

In December we provided blankets for refugees, including those from Afghanistan, being settled in the Lehigh Valley area. Here is more information about LIRS, the agency overseeing that resettlement.

LIRS is one of nine refugee resettlement agencies in the United States and one of two organizations the U.S. Government entrusts with serving unaccompanied minors. More than 90 local nonprofits are part of their national partner network.

*The vast majority of American-born citizens have an immigrant ancestor – someone who left a familiar land in search of a better life. To this day, individuals and families come to the United States to escape war, famine, violence, and persecution in countries that no longer feel like home. Since 1939, more than 500,000 immigrants and refugees have been met with open arms by the people of LIRS. As both descendants of immigrants and new Americans ourselves, we hear our past in their stories. As human beings, we empathize with their greatest fears and highest hopes. As passionate experts in the work of welcome, we seek to protect vulnerable newcomers and empower them to share in the American dream.*

You can find out more about LIRS and ways to help, especially ways to help those from Afghanistan, at [www.LIRS.org](http://www.LIRS.org).



Here are some words for thought from a friend:

- ☺ Be who you needed when you were younger
- ☺ In a world where you can be anything, be kind.
- ☺ May our choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.
- ☺ When you forgive, you heal. When you let go, you grow.
- ☺ Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

### **PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT**

**Members:** Sara Jane Beshore, Family and friends of Jeannette DeLong, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, and Elaine Seip.

**Friends of the congregation:** Charlie Ackerman, John Arndt, Michael Basta, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mitch Burkhart, Cindy D., Katie Didyoung, John Drumheller, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, 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, 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, Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.

## Washed clean

Make customized jelly soaps to banish dirt and grime.



### What you need:

- 1 package unflavored gelatin
- ¾ cup very warm water
- 1 tsp salt
- ¾ cup gel body wash
- Food coloring
- Rubbing alcohol in spray bottle
- Silicone baking molds

### What you do:

1. In a bowl, stir gelatin and warm water until dissolved.
2. Add salt, body wash and a few drops of food coloring. Stir.
3. Spray molds with rubbing alcohol (to prevent bubbles). Place molds on a tray.
4. Pour mixture into the molds. Refrigerate until set, about two hours.
5. Pop soap out of molds and store in an airtight container.



## A wonderful washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

*Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.*

ETRCAE _____	_____	out my transgressions (v. 1)
HSAW _____	_____	away all my iniquity (v. 2)
RSEEROT _____	_____	me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7)
WNERE _____	_____	me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)
TLBO _____	_____	your face from my sins (v. 9)
DIHE _____	_____	out all my iniquity (v. 9)
NATRG _____	_____	in me a pure heart (v. 10)
LNSECAE _____	_____	a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)
LBTO _____	_____	to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)
WHSA _____	_____	me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12)

Answer: blot, wash, cleanse, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant



# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

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MARCH 2022 • ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 30

Beloved Members of our Synod,

At its January meeting, the Synod Council made the difficult decision to once again hold the Synod Assembly online instead of gathering in person. We know this decision may come as a disappointment to you, and I'd like to explain how the Council came to its decision.

First, please know the decision wasn't easy, nor was it unanimous; however, the decision to move online did pass with an overwhelming majority voting in favor. Initially, many council members, like you, very much wanted to hold the assembly in person and gather as planned in Reading. But in discussion, a few realities just could not be overcome: vaccines were still not available for our youngest children (ages 0-4), a new variant was ushering in extremely high transmission numbers, and our local hospitals were struggling to keep abreast of testing and available beds. Given the swift onset and spread of the Omicron variant, the council wondered at the possibility of a new variant emerging at the time of the Synod Assembly. Like you, we just simply can't see into the future.

The gravity of these unknowns increased when coupled with the fact that there was a significant down payment cost for the facility – a cost we could not recoup even if, for whatever reason, we needed to cancel or downsize the Assembly. Use it, or lose it. As long as I have been chairing Synod Council meetings, I have never witnessed the Council making spendthrift decisions. Each financial decision is taken on deliberately and with care, the council focusing on being good stewards always and in every way. It was, in the end, a financial risk too great to take.

So, once again, we will see you online on June 10th and 11th. But we hope you will find a way to see each other in person, gathering safely in smaller numbers as the situation allows, and enjoying each other's company as we get the business done and see what's happening around our Synod and throughout the ELCA.

Yours in Christ,  
Kristen Edelman-Weiner  
Vice-President, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod





**50TH ANNIVERSARY PARAMENTS**

Brenda Stauffer was the catalyst for the new altar and pulpit paraments that were dedicated for our 50th Anniversary. Brenda brought up the idea of creating quilted paraments at the brainstorming session that was held at Prince of Peace in January of 2021. A suggestion was made that the paraments be green so that they would be able to be used during the season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. This is the longest season of the church year and is represented by the color green.

The 50th Anniversary Task Force approved the designs for the paraments, Kim drew the designs out to scale and delivered them to Pam. Pam chose the fabrics and used an appliqué technique to create them. Brenda kept communicating with everyone to make sure the new paraments were completed on time for their dedication on January 16, 2022.

[VIEW FULL STORY HERE](#)

**BOOK STUDY:  
WAKING UP WHITE**

The Racial Justice Team (a part of the Witness & Service Ministry Team) invites you to participate in a 5-part online Lenten book study, beginning Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm and continuing the next 4 Monday nights at 7 on Zoom. Contact Samantha Drennan for more information!

**STEWARDSHIP  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

**JUNE 18, 2022  
TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, LANSDALE**  
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE  
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS  
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)



Save the date **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**

*June 10-11  
Virtual*



# MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00pm-Christ Mertz, Dryville, St. Paul's, Mertztown, and Trinity, Topton  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	3 10:00am-Coloring Group	4 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	5
6 First Sunday in Lent 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion	7 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8	9 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Christ Mertz, Dryville	10	11 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	12
13 Second Sunday in Lent 10:00am-Worship  <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	14 9:00am-Worship & Music Committee Meeting 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting	15	16 12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, St. Peter's, Topton	17  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	19
20 Third Sunday in Lent 10:00am-Worship  <b>First Day of Spring NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	21 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	22	23 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Hope, Bowers	24	25 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	26
27 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00am-Worship	28 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29	30 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Trinity, Topton	31		