

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

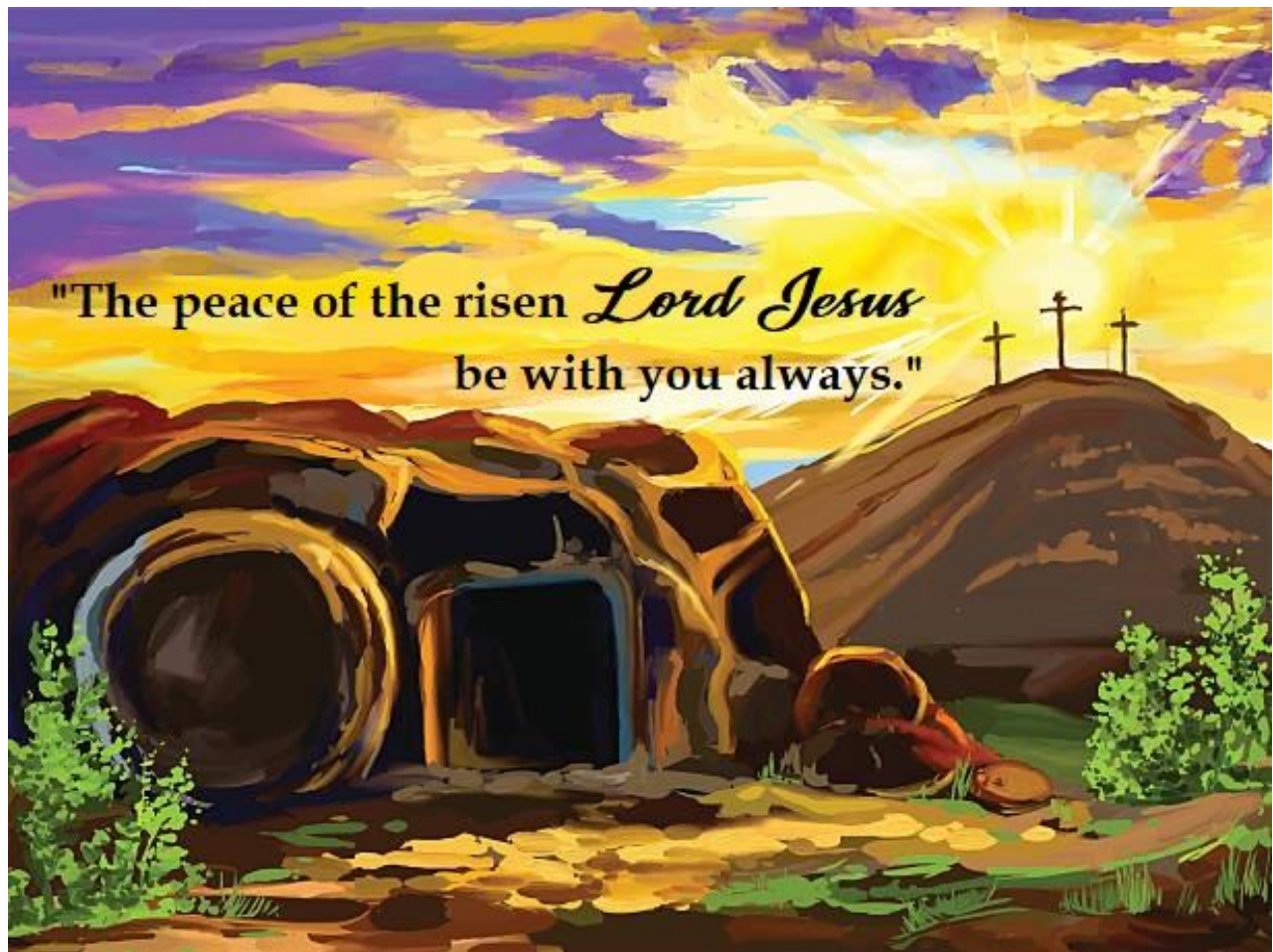
E-MAIL: njelchurch@windstream.net

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.*



“Christ is alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age.”

–Brian Wren

Dear Friends,

Have you ever renovated something? Perhaps you renovated your house so it would better fit your changing needs. Maybe you altered clothes so they'd be more up to date. The word *renovate* is made up of *re* which means *again* and *novate* which comes from the Latin *novare* which means *to make new*. So, *renovate* is *to make new again*.

In worship this month we will be focusing ways Jesus helped his disciples “renovate” their faith following his resurrection from the dead. Things had changed radically for them. They no longer had the same relationship with the One they followed. What they thought they had understood about who Jesus was no longer “fit” well. Jesus was no longer physically with them every day. They were no longer following him around the countryside. True, Jesus did keep appearing, reassuring them that he truly was alive, and trying to prepare them for when they would no longer see him in the flesh. However, those 40 days before his ascension were a time of major transition for them. During May, as we pay attention to how Jesus worked with his followers, we will be listening for how the Risen One works with us to develop a faith that suits us well for these times.

Sometimes we don't realize how our faith develops over the years. Sometimes we are aware that a major “renovation” is taking place, but often the development is gradual.

In order to renovate something, make it new again, you usually have to take it apart. You have to *deconstruct* something before you can *reconstruct* it. That can be scary and even messy. It may mean knocking down walls or ripping out seams. During the taking apart stage, the deconstruction stage, we often wonder whether we will ever get things back together again and whether we will even like the newer version. Usually, though, there is a point where there is no going back. There is only forward. Even then, we often get impatient, ready to be done with the mess, with the unknown.

When you renovate something, you also retain some basic parts of the structure. Even if you are involved in a major renovation, you don't bulldoze everything down nor shred the original material. It is the same with faith. The One in whom we believe has not changed, though our understanding of God may be altered and expanded. The God we know in Jesus continues to be faithful, seeking to restore wholeness to us and to all of creation, willing to sacrifice and go to the greatest lengths to do so, giving us the power to grow in love and expecting us to do so.

In the past decades we have frequently heard, and perhaps even asked, “Why don't people just come to church like they used to?” As we think about that question, we need to first acknowledge that there is no “one-size-fits-all” answer. Second, often the reason we are asking that question is because we want people to fill the pews of *our* congregation. We long for that sense of larger community that has been so affirming in the past. We want others to find the meaningful connection we find with God in this place, among us. There is nothing wrong with those yearnings. We may also be afraid that by people not showing up to worship with us, by *some* of them going elsewhere, that is a judgement on us, and we end up asking, “What are we missing? Are we doing something wrong?” We may even slip into the thinking that *our* own tradition of expressing Christianity is the *only* Christian alternative to unbelief. It's not.

What we may not realize is that, as in many times of the past, Christ's body, the church, is under major renovation. Just as the days after Easter were uncomfortable, scary times for the disciples, deconstruction and reconstruction of the church are uncomfortable and scary for us as well. What we have come to learn, though, is that many around us have not rejected Christ, but, are in the process of re-appraising their faith tradition, searching for what will be a life-giving expression of their relationship with the God they have come to know in Jesus. Many around us have honest doubts and questions, they want to go deep. Re-appraising, facing doubts and raising questions can not only be a healthy part of maturing in individual faith, they may be and are ways Christ renovates his body to fit and serve the people of this age. We can give thanks that some of those doing the re-appraising first came to know Jesus through our community. We can also give thanks that, even today, some are finding our community a safe and welcoming place to explore and grow in faith.

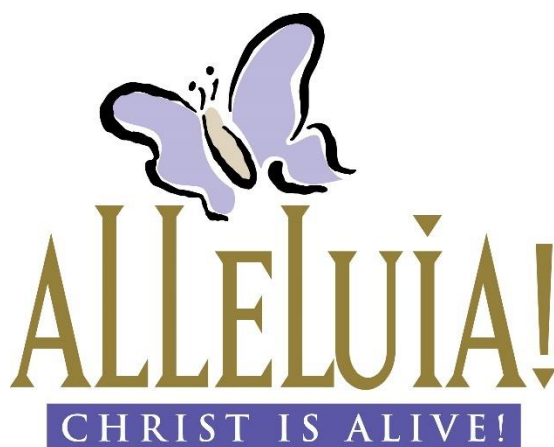
We live in a more diverse, accessible and mobile world than our grandparents and parents. For the better part of human history, you simply lived and died within the religious system you were born to. Today we and those around us encounter people with different cultures, lifestyles, and religious backgrounds, some of whose sincerity and devotions possibly put ours to shame. Yet, we Christians do not need to fear religious freedom and cultural diversity. At the same time we can acknowledge and identify things within Christian *culture* that need to be challenged and re-evaluated. Christian culture – what has become traditional ways of organizing and behaving – is not the same as Christian faith itself.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was a dramatic challenge to not only what the disciples believed about Jesus, but also to their understanding of life itself and how they acted. Just as Jesus kept showing up, helping them to adjust and preparing for what was to come, Jesus keeps showing up for us. Jesus promises to be with us always, and that God, around and even through us, is doing what God always intended to do in a new way.

From the beginning of time God desired that all of creation, including we, be in a close, loving relationship with God and with every other person and part. Jesus' death and resurrection assure us that God is not only able, but still determined to bring this about. Even as Jesus reassured his disciples the Holy Spirit would come, empower them, and show them what to do, he reassured them and reassures us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

Pastor Ruth

These reflections are based in large part on: "Five Real Reasons Young People are Deconstructing Their Faith" by Joe Terrell.



NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on April 11th:

- As a precaution, council identified worship guidelines to be put in place if the transmission levels in Berks County for COVID-19 would rise to level 4-5. Please see below.
- Thrivent grants for this year will be used for the Seafarer's, the Brandywine and Kutztown Food Pantries, Thanksgiving Holiday Boxes, and Gifts for Children, and the concert by the Majestics in July. Two other grants are being reserved for the for other ministry opportunities which might arise during the year.
- And update was given on the results of the small group meetings that were held in February and March. Plans are being made to move forward in discernment of our future. Pastor has also been meeting with other Lutheran pastors in the area to discuss the future of Lutheran ministry in our community. The plan is to involve lay leaders in this discussion in the near future.
- The Cemetery Board, with the assistance of an attorney, is continuing to move forward with clarification of property lines and other legal considerations which need to be addressed to ensure future care of the cemetery.
- Discussion was continued on how best to help the scouts store their equipment so that the old trailers can be removed from the property.

COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, May 5, 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.



BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group is now studying Revelation. This month we will meet on **Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 11:00 a.m.** in the church building. Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

We are finally back! We hope you will be able to join us to treat mom or the special women in your life to a delicious breakfast on **Sunday, May 8, from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m.** There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex if you are able to help with providing any food for the breakfast.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY – May 8th

Psalm 23 is so familiar to us. We will read these beautiful words again on Good Shepherd Sunday. Here's a poem to also contemplate:

In the midst of
those who trouble
us, may
we lay out a
picnic,
so in the breaking
of the bread,
hearts may be mended,
old slights brushed
away with the
crumbs,
and bridges built
across the blanket
spread over grace's
lawn.

From: "Grace will walk us home" by Thom M. Shuman. Wild Goose Publications

COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT will be held on **Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** Spread the word.

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Sunday, May 22.** Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, MAY 29th

Please note: On Sunday, May 29th we will meet outside facing the cemetery at 10:00 a.m. At that time the Color Guard from our local legion will fire a salute and play taps. We will then proceed into the sanctuary for worship. Please be sure to come in plenty of time to join in thanking God for our nation.

DATE SAVER – Lest you think we have forgotten fathers, we are also planning a **Father's Day Breakfast for Sunday, June 19th.**

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.

CHOIR HAS RESUMED REHEARSALS and would welcome additional members. Even if you don't think you sing very well or claim you can't carry a tune in a bucket, there may well be a place for you. It's a desire to join in praise that counts the most. *And*, there's always room in the rhythm section.

I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER FOR YOU

Last month we started listing the names of one of our members or a family on each weekday of our calendar. Please remember that person in prayer, even if you don't know them.

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. 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, so please keep the info below handy. 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>.

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**

CURRENT WORSHIP GUIDELINES

Our worship guidelines at present place responsibility for personal health and safety on individuals. Anyone who has not been vaccinated, is vulnerable, or is concerned about the vulnerability of another with whom they have close contact is encouraged to take the precautions they think necessary to protect their health. These are subject to change if the level of transmission rises.

Currently masking is optional, though will be respected. Singing, passing the peace, communion at the rail, and fellowship after services have been resumed.

JUST IN CASE: UPDATED WORSHIP INFORMATION FROM COUNCIL

Please join us in praying that the spread of COVID-19 will decrease.

Meanwhile, join us in giving thanks to God for the gift of life and health *and* taking seriously the responsibility to take care of not only our own health, but also that of others, especially the vulnerable.

As members of Congregation Council watch case counts of COVID-19 fluctuate in our area, council has determined that if the levels of transmission in Berks County rise to the 4th or 5th level (very high or extremely high) according to www.CovidActNow.org, the following preventive measures will be put in place in our gatherings:

1. All persons will be expected to wear masks, except for those for whom this is not medically advisable.

2. All persons will be expected to practice social distancing.
3. At the time of the passing of the peace, we will simply signal a sign of peace to one another
4. Communion will be celebrated using prepackaged elements.
5. Fellowship activities, including sharing food, will be temporarily curtailed.

CovidActNow.org bases their ratings on: daily new cases, infection rate, and positive tests results. The ratings range from:

5. extremely/very high
4. very high
3. high
2. medium
1. (very) low

Again, we pray that we will not need to put these measures into place. We ask that, if we do, you not only be patient, but also support council members in working for the good of all, especially for the vulnerable.

THE WORD IS SPREADING

When members of Redeemer Bible Fellowship in Topton heard that we were collecting Bibles for the prison, they ordered 25 new ones, some in Spanish, some in English. Altogether we delivered 35.

THREADS FOR OTHERS

Our folks involved in knitting and crocheting, making hats and cowls, prayer shawls, quilts, walker bags and other items have resumed working together. As part of our start-up we checked out some closets where we discovered lap robes and over 60 “pillow case” dresses for little girls in 3rd world countries. The lap robes have been taken to The Lutheran Home. The dresses will soon be sent on their way. Now we are busy putting quilts together. Anyone who can work a safety pin and/or tie a knot is encouraged to join as we help restock quilts Lutheran World Relief has sent to Ukraine and other areas where they are needed. Contact Phyllis Fenstermacher, Betty Eshbach, or Pastor Ruth.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Alan Rader who passed away on March 25, 2022. Pastor Ruth officiated at his funeral service on April 1, at Mae Stump Funeral Home, Fleetwood.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Mamie Guinther who passed away on April 7, 2022. Pastor Ruth officiated at her Celebration of Life service on April 14, at Ludwick Funeral Home, Topton.

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

– Brian Wren

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CONFIRMED IN THE FAITH

Confirmation, a rite many churches celebrate each spring, has biblical roots. In Acts 8, Peter and John are sent to lay their hands on new believers and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. In the early church, new Christians — usually adult converts — received baptism and confirmation as one ceremony. As more children were brought for baptism, pastors and priests would baptize, but only bishops would “confirm” a baptism, or make it official. Thus, the baptized were granted full membership in the church through confirmation.

Now confirmation allows young people, often after intensive Christian education, to profess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized. Confirmation serves as an important faith milestone, as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship.

CONGRATULATIONS to Justin Cole Keller who was confirmed on Sunday, April 24, 2022 at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church.

*The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.*

*May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with those oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.*

“The Risen Christ” Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952. Used with permission. Hymns reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Hymns License #SAS28326 and Christian Copyright Licensing International. CCLI License #2549570. All rights reserved.

IMPROVING HEALTHY BEHAVIOR

Now that warmer weather has arrived, many of us are determined to take health improvement more seriously. After all, there's little excuse to at least get out and walk.

But there is more to health than just physical well-being. Relational well-being is also very important. Many have noted that it seems that that has greatly deteriorated in our nation in the past several years. People seem ready to quickly see things in black and white, to take sides, and to attack rather than listen to one another and seek to discuss things. Sometimes the behavior we experience around us creeps into our own actions.

We who are followers of the King of Love need to be on guard against unhealthy behavior between us and others. We need to remember that it isn't just the words we say, but that *how* we say them counts as well. We need to remember that "a soft answer turns away wrath." (Proverbs 15:1) We also need to remember that if someone offends us by what they say or how they say it, we can either leave the situation or say, "Please stop" or "Ouch, that hurt." By identifying how someone's actions affect us, we can encourage the other to also grow in love.

Yes, it is important to identify issues and stand up for what we believe. Yes, it can be important at times to disagree with someone. However, the goal, when possible, should be discussion and resolution. Keeping or winning a friend is often much more important than starting or winning an argument.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has been working to enhance our worship experiences and to keep our worship space and grounds not only neat, but beautiful.

Have you noticed the flowers that continue to bloom at our entrance or how much cleaning up has been going on over the past months? Have you noticed how much cleaner the scout cabin looks or that the overgrown trees behind it have been removed? Have you noticed that cracks in the parking lot have been filled in in preparation for seal coating it in the future? What else have you noticed? Whom have you thanked?

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGE SERVICES (LIRS) UPDATE

As we see the images on tv and hear about the ongoing devastation in Ukraine, we also remember that there are over 40 other areas in the world where war rages and people are terrorized.

As thousands of refugees from Ukraine seek asylum in our country and as we loosen our southern borders, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services is stepping up to the plate. Still involved in resettling refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere, workers have been acting as quickly as possible to prepare to welcome and assist additional brothers and sisters seeking to escape trauma.

At last report 90% of refugees from Ukraine are women and children. There is an urgent need for resources that will provide immediate services to those who arrive, including emergency medical care, temporary housing, financial support for basic necessities, and much more.

As you know, LIRS has been a leader in the resettlement of individuals and families from Afghanistan over the last several months. While we continue that work, we will build off our experience and expertise to welcome Ukrainian refugees with open arms. In fact, LIRS has helped to resettle one-quarter of all Ukrainian refugees who have come to the U.S. in the last decade. Please keep this agency as well as Lutheran World Relief and ELCA Disaster Response in your prayers. To learn more go to www.lirs.org; www.lwr.org, and www.elca.org/disaster.

*In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.*

"Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing!" Text: Brian Wren. Text ©1973. Hymns reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Hymns License #SAS28326 and Christian Copyright Licensing International. CCLI License #2549570. All rights reserved.



MAY 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!

Altar Flower sponsors for May:

May 1 – Lisa Landis
May 8 – *sponsor needed*
May 15 – *sponsor needed*
May 22 – *sponsor needed*
May 29 – Kenneth Keck

Bulletin Sponsors for May:

May 1 – Phyllis Fenstermacher
May 8 – Anna Angstadt
May 15 – Carole Herbert/Mark Zeleznick
May 22 – Carole Herbert/Mark Zeleznick
May 29 – Gladys Kline

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for May:

Carole Herbert and Mark Zeleznick

Children's Bulletin Sponsor for May:

Dale Schwoyer

Communion Bread Sponsor:

May 1 – Cindy Rissmiller
May 29 – Gladys Kline

Communion Set-up Volunteers:

May 1 – Faye Dey
May 29 – *volunteer needed*

Altar Guild for May:

Tara Basta

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORSHIP SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY

- St. Peter's UCC, Topton, 150th Anniversary Celebration.
- SwampFest on June 11, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Longswamp Township. There will be food, music, and fireworks.
- Festival on July 30, 2022 at Longswamp Park Pavilion with "The Majestics" at 5:00 p.m.
- Outdoor Worship in Bowers Park on Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.
- Oley Valley Community Fair/Parade on Saturday, September 10, 2022.
- Hope Lutheran, Bowers, 50th Anniversary Celebration (Fall Special Service).



- 1 Edna Miller
- 1 Nancy Heffner
- 2 Derick Wartzenuft
- 4 Dana Wartzenuft
- 7 Erma Gajewski
- 8 David Moyer, Jr.
- 15 Sharon Guinther
- 22 Daniel Gehman
- 26 Joshua Keck
- 26 Olivia Moyer



- 17 Donald and Erma Gajewski (42 years)
- 20 Blane and Jennifer Musser (22 years)

FIXED HOURS OF PRAYER

As summer approaches, you may look forward to a more relaxed routine. But don't discard all your good habits and commitments! For soul care, try fixed hours of prayer. Simply expand the concept of praying at set times (such as before meals and bed) into praying regularly each morning, midday and evening. Set an alarm on your watch or phone and commit to engaging with God at the specified times. You can do this on your own or with family or friends.



You can pray using Scripture verses, devotional guides, the *Book of Common Prayer* or a resource such as www.ExploreFaith.org. (When I'm tired or overwhelmed, it's helpful to pray someone else's words.) You might want to pray the same prayers morning, noon and evening for a week or a month. This practice isn't meant to replace spontaneous prayers. Instead, use fixed hours of prayer to nurture a consistent habit of conversing with God.

—Janna Firestone

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

GETTING RID OF 'ALL THE STUFF'

And Jesus said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." - Luke 12:20

The father of small children was commiserating about how hard it is to keep the house clean with energetic, active, creative kids at home.

"What really gets to me about cleaning the house," he said, "is all the *stuff*."

Stuff. Not just the toys and stuffed animals that overflow from toy bins, under beds and closets. The adult stuff, too – the gadgets crowding the kitchen, the cleaning products jammed under the sink, the stuff crammed in the medicine cabinet, the yard junk all over the lawn, and on and on.

The stuff factor comes to mind in Jesus' parable of "the rich fool" in Luke 12:17-20. The fool has so much stuff, he wants bigger barns to hold it all. The parable should strike a chord with us in America, where accumulation is such a big problem that self-storage (our "bigger barns") is booming business. A man of few possessions, Jesus kept everything simple. He must have known how hard it is to focus on godly living when our lives are cluttered with stuff. Of course, Jesus' parable talks about possessions, but the same principle applies to the mind and heart's clutter of ideas, loyalties and desires that distract us from God.

How cluttered is your house? Your mind? Your soul?

For the month of May, consider a house cleaning to get rid of unneeded, unnecessary stuff. And prayerfully consider what "clutter" may be in your mind, heart and soul as well. What needs to be tossed out, recycled or donated in order that your house and your spirit can focus on what's truly important? That is, the things of God.

—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. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com



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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members: Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, 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., 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, Family and friends of Alan Rader, Family and friends of Arlene Reider, 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, Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

March 31, 2022

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 22,661.01
Thrivent	11,896.77
Checking	5,384.32
Youth	406.62
Fidelity	70,813.71
Cash Reserve	14,418.60
Mission Investment Fund	11,631.79
Local Care	<u>2,320.31</u>

Total: \$ 139,533.13

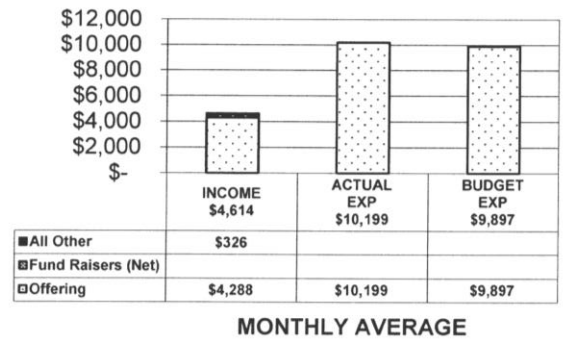
Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **March 31, 2021** \$ 163,156.11

March 2022 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income		
	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,891.25	\$ 4,449.42	(\$ 5,441.83)

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

**MARCH 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME AND EXPENSE**



**CALENDAR YEAR 2022 INFORMATION
NORMAL OPERATIONS
(DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)**

INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY MARCH 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE		
	Mar Y-T-D	Average Month
Income		
Offering	\$ 12,865	\$ 4,288
Fund Raisers	\$ -	-
Other	\$ 977	326
Total Income	\$ 13,842	4,614
Actual Exp	\$ 30,596	10,199
Budget Exp	\$ 29,692	9,897
Shortage *	\$ (15,850)	(5,283)

*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2022 BUDGET Expense
Less Benevolence

WE REMEMBER

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



Egg-cellent bouquet

Transform an egg carton into a Mother's Day keepsake.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Flat cardboard
- Photo, drawing or note
- Small pom-poms
- Hot glue
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Bend, stretch and cut the carton cups to make 3-D flower shapes. Also cut leaf shapes from the carton top.
2. Paint the flowers and leaves. Let dry.
3. Cut the flat cardboard to a size and shape you desire. Leave a border at least 2 inches larger than your photo, drawing or note.
4. With hot glue, attach the photo, drawing or note to the cardboard.
5. Arrange and glue flowers and leaves around the border. Attach pom-poms for more color and texture.
6. Present the gift to your mom or a special woman in your life.

PUZZLE

A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
2. ○ _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
4. ○ _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
6. ○ _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
8. ○ _ _ _ _ _
9. ○ _ _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _

_ _ o n o _ _ y o u r _ _ a t h e r a n d _ _ o u r m o _ h _ r ,
 s o t _ a t y _ u m a y _ i _ e l _ n g i n t _ e l a n d
 t h e L _ R D _ _ o u _ G o d i _ g i v i _ g y o u .

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD NEWS

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What's it like to be a Pastoral Intern in NEPA?

By Melissa Hrdlicka

It is hard to believe I have been on internship with Common Ground Recovery Community for nine months already! My time with Common Ground has been a deep blessing to me and to my education. I have witnessed the presence of God in the open vulnerable sharing during our Wednesday worship, in the heartfelt reverent “thank you’s” when serving communion and meals in downtown Reading and in our study of the scriptures and 12-steps. Common Ground truly is a place of radical love and where God’s grace embraces our brokenness.

As part of my internship project, I invited our worshiping communities and ministry partners to reflect on these three questions: What does Common Ground mean to you? What does community mean to you? And where do you see God here and in the world? They then drew on white cotton squares that will be sewn together to make an altar cloth to fit all of our communion tables. The responses were profound and beautiful!

There are drawings of stick figures holding hands around the globe, animals peacefully living together, a place of refuge in the storm and in the desert, flowers, hearts, and crosses. There are phrases like, “Freedom, break the chains”, “God is love”, “We are better together”, “Never give up hope because there is hope in everything”, and so much more on these 33 squares!

As these squares are knit together to make one, we are reminded that God weaves all of us together in a tapestry of love to bring warmth, comfort, grace, and peace to a weary world! May we live out this good news and may it spill over into thanksgiving! (Colossians 2:2-7)



TOGETHER

Our 2022 Assembly will be held online on June 10-11. Each congregation is entitled to bring two voting members. Register on the synod website today!

Godslove.org

STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA



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



Join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month!
(more information on our website)



APRIL 23 & 24, 2022, 1PM-4PM
RAIN OR SHINE, BAREBONES EVENT, BRING YOUR OWN KNIFE, CUTTING BOARD, DRINKS, AND SNACKS. WE'LL BE CUTTING THE SEED POTATOES FOR PLANTING SEASON! ALL ARE INVITED! JUST WALK-IN AND HELP!

BECKER'S ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
265 MAIDENCREEK ROAD
FLEETWOOD, PA 19522

Three Years of Growth and Change



GROWING YOUNG



GAINING STRENGTH



BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE

MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Third Sunday of Easter 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion	2 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Steve Fox	3 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Donald and Erma Gajewski	4 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Daniel and Sheila Gehman	5 10:00am-Coloring Group Marlowe and Brenda Greis	6 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Erma Guinther	7 12:00-3:00pm-Celebrating a Mother's Love, Hope Lutheran, Bowers
8 Good Shepherd Sunday 10:00am-Worship 8:30-9:15am-Mother's Day Breakfast Mother's Day	9 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting Linda Guinther	10 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Sharon Guinther	11 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Virginia Guinther	12 Jarrett and Amy Hahn	13 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Nancy Heffner	14 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot
15 Fifth Sunday of Easter 10:00am-Worship	16 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Carole Herbert and Mark Zeleznick	17 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Amanda Herman and Logan Santee	18 12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Ronald and Wilma Herman	19 Shirley Hertzog	20 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Brian Hess	21
22 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00am-Worship ▪ Fellowship after worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Tina Howell & family	24 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Barbara Johnson	25 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Lucille Jones	26 Ascension Day Ken and Josh Keck	27 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Jared Keiser	28
29 Seventh Sunday of Easter/ Ascension of Our Lord 10:00am-Worship w/ Holy Communion Color Guard before worship	30 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED Brian Keller	31 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal Jason Keller and Family				
						Please remember the following members listed on the days of the week in your prayers.