

## THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

SECRETARY HOURS:

Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (in-office hours from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.), Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.



O give thanks unto the *Lord*,  
for he is good and  
his mercy endures forever.

- Psalm 118:1

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.*



O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good and his mercy endures forever.  
-Psalm 118:1

Dear Fellow Members of God's Family,

When I was growing up, at the end of every Sunday dinner, my father would say, "Let us return thanks." We would bow our heads and say the words printed above: "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good and his mercy endures forever." My father said, "Let us return thanks," but actually, it was *returning* to thanks, for we had said a thank you prayer before the meal, before we even got a taste.

Several weeks ago, we had the story of the 10 lepers whom Jesus healed. We heard how only one returned to say, "Thank you." We thought about how important it is to actually say those words because they acknowledge and build the relationship between the giver and the recipient. When we say "thank you," we acknowledge that what we have received is a gift, not something we deserved or earned.

That same Sunday I started the service by asking everyone to write down 10 things for which they were thankful since they woke up that morning. "Seriously?" "10 things?" "Just this morning?" "I can't think of 10 things!" But then someone called out, "Coffee!" and the wheels started to turn. Someone else said, "That I woke up!" and another, "That I stood up!" and the pencils started moving. A little humor always helps to get things going among our folks.

Later in the service people placed their pieces of paper in the offering basket, as a way of saying thank you to God. Now these notes – over 200 of them – are on display on one of our bulletin boards. Answers range from "coffee" (lots of those) to hamsters to having heat (it was a cool day) to clothes to wear to seeing friends at church. And they include "seeing the sun," "having a car," "food for breakfast," all things we often take for granted, but since I limited the choice to something that had been experienced that morning, folks focused in on these.

So, what would you add? For what would you thank God *today*? It's an important question because remembering to thank God, returning over and over to thank God, keeps us in relationship with God, keeps us in *proper* relationship with God, one that acknowledges that we neither deserve nor earn what God gives, and yet God blesses us.

Recognizing how much God gives us and regularly saying, “Thank you” builds the relationship of trust God desires us to have with God. When a child comes to trust a parent because its basic needs and more have been provided, then, when the tough times come, the child is likely to trust that it can depend on the parent to help it get through. It is the same way with God. As we continue to recognize and acknowledge how God blesses us, we come to trust God to be with us even when we can’t see God, even when we don’t seem to be getting an answer. It is important that we persevere, not just in asking for what we need, but also in giving thanks.

On Sunday, November 20, we will observe Stewardship Sunday and we will have the Congregational Meeting to vote on the proposed budget for 2023. We do this in November, not just because we need to plan a budget, but because it links stewardship with thanksgiving. Recognizing that all we have is a gift and therefore to be treasured, we seek to use what we have received in a way that pleases the giver, God. Pastor Joe Veres will be our guest preacher.

These are unsettling times. As individuals, a nation, a world and a congregation we face unsettling financial times. With inflation high and rumors of a coming recession and an ongoing war in Europe, it is tempting as individuals and a congregation to hold back more of our resources, rather than to give out of thanksgiving and with trust that God will provide what we need. Just like saying thank you to God before we even taste a bite of a meal, so we plan to give a healthy portion of what we receive, even before we receive it, trusting God will provide what we need. (Old Testament people called this giving “first fruits.”) We also factor into our personal donations the fact that costs for the congregation and for those we support through our budget are rising, just as they are for us as individuals. As faithful stewards we as individuals are also not content with what we have always given. We update our plans for ways to support God’s work among and through us.

Later in this newsletter you will find a hymn that may be new to us, “Have You Thanked the Lord.” Enjoy it! You’ll also find a translation of Psalm 118. May these offerings help us think about thanksgiving in new ways and help to nurture our attitude of gratitude.

And now I give thanks for each of you and celebrate that you are in my life.

*Pastor Ruth*



# NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were covered at our Council Meeting on Monday, October 10th:

- Council members discussed Chapter 5 of “I Am a Church Member.
- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, presented the Proposed Budget for 2023 to council members for their approval.
- Christmas Decorating will take place on Saturday, November 26, at 1:00 p.m.
- Our Christmas Eve worship service will be held at 7:00 p.m.
- The Stewardship Committee proposed a sandwich and soup sale for April 29 or May 5 of 2023.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.**

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, November 7, 21, and 28, at 11:00 a.m.** New participants welcome. Tell Pastor Ruth if you're interested.

## COLORING GROUP

The next meeting is **Thursday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m.** Friends are welcome. Contact Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) if you would like pages sent to you.

## THE COMPASSIONATE CRAFTERS

Want to crochet or knit to God's glory and make the world a better place? If so, you are welcome to join to join with other crafters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Topton. Meetings take place on Thursday, November 10 and Thursday, November 24 this month from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room.

## WALKING/HIKING GROUP

The walking/hiking group meets **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.** at the Brandywine Community Library parking lot for a 1- to 2-mile hike on the Lutheran Home hiking trails. To join, confirm the date, suggest another time to meet, or if you have any questions, contact Jim Kwiatkowski at 484.226.6232, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton.

## JAMES MEN'S MINISTRY (JMM)

Breakfast gatherings start at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Their next meeting will be held **Saturday, November 19**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton.

## CHOIR & BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir meets at 5:30 p.m. and Bell Choir meets at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesdays. We could always use more voices to help sing the Lord's praises.

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 6, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a day to remember the whole cloud of witnesses that surrounds us and cheers us on as we continue our journey here on earth. We will be lighting candles on the altar in remembrance of those who have died within the past 12 months: Joyce Rothermel, Jeannette DeLong, Alan Rader, Mamie Guinther, Lori Eck, and Bertha Bennecoff. Each family present will be invited to light a candle for those whom they want to remember and thank. Join us for worship and Holy Communion.

## DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the September newsletter is **Sunday, November 20th**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 20th

Christ the King Sunday. What an appropriate day to hold our Stewardship Sunday and Congregational Meeting to approve the budget! What better way to observe this day than to focus on what it means to be stewards of what God has entrusted to us: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Pastor Joseph Veres will be the guest preacher. Following the service, members of the congregation will consider the proposed budget for 2023 and we will have fellowship. Please be sure to join us. Remember, 25 voting members are needed for a quorum.

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“Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.” – Proverbs 19:21

## **THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**

We will be gathering with our brothers and sisters at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton, for our Community Thanksgiving Eve worship service this year. The service begins at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23rd**. Let us join together to give thanks for God's bountiful blessings.

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 26, at 1:00 p.m. and are in need of folks to help. Thank you!

## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 24, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## **DISCERNING OUR FUTURE – JOINT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

As part of the process of discerning our future, council members from New Jerusalem and Trinity, Tipton, met together over supper on Monday, September 19, and our council members met with those of Hope, Bowers on October 20. These meetings are a way to get to know one another and learn about the ministries, opportunities, and challenges each congregation faces. Plans are to meet with the council members of Christ Mertz on November 3rd and we look forward to doing the same with councils from other area churches.

## **CAMPFIRE WITH THE SCOUTS – OCTOBER 15TH**

Once again, over 20 of us, including visitors, gathered on a beautiful fall evening to enjoy communion, campfire and supper, complete with hotdogs and 'smores. We probably shouldn't say a whole lot more because tradition has it, "what happens at the campfire, stays at the campfire," but this continues to be a great chance to get to know one another and enjoy one another. Thank you, Lord, for the gorgeous evening you provided.

## **HOLIDAY MEAL BOXES FOR FRIEND INC., AND BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

We're trying something new this year. In addition to filling 2 Thanksgiving boxes at New Jerusalem, our confirmands are going to use our \$250 Thrivent Grant to purchase the contents of as many boxes as funds allow. (It will be a math challenge to start.

How much does each item cost and how many boxes can be filled with the funds available?) Next, Logan and Carson Seip will take all the items to Christ Mertz on the afternoon of November 13 and, along with youth from other area churches, will decorate and fill boxes to be distributed not only through Friend, Inc., but also through the Brandywine Heights Area School District. Any bets on how many boxes our congregations can provide? The fun starts at 2:00 p.m. and other helpers are welcome to join in the fun.

## **CHRISTMAS AT SEA: SATCHELS FOR SEAFARERS**

We've got lots of empty satchels and a \$250 Thrivent Grant in hand. As soon as we receive the items listed below (**due November 20**), we'll



shop for what we need to complete as many bags as possible and ship them off. One note: You pick the colors, styles, and brands. If buying both a sweatshirt and a t-shirt, please make them the same size and avoid pastel colors.

- One **Sweatshirt** – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)
- One **T-shirt** (size M-L-XL)
- Three pairs of **Socks** (thermal or gym)
- One **Knitted Winter Cap** (no pastels please)
- One **Knitted Cowl**
- One **Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Health Snack Bar**
- A **Holiday or Christmas Card** from YOU!

You know those unsolicited holiday cards you get in the mail? How about writing a short message in some and getting them to us? We also have cards with the picture of our church on it that you could use.

This year we've spread the word to other congregations and have already heard back that others are busy crocheting and knitting the hats and cowls, so we may be quite surprised how many satchels we can fill.

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“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” – Proverbs 11:25

# NOVEMBER

WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS

## Altar Flower Sponsors:

November 6 – Lisa Landis

November 13 – *sponsor needed*

November 20 – *sponsor needed*

November 27 – *sponsor needed*

## Bulletin Sponsors:

November 6 – Mark Zeleznick

November 13 – Carole Herbert

November 20 – Mark Zelenick and Carole Herbert

November 27 – Cheryl Wiltrout

## Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:

*sponsor needed*

## Children's Bulletin Sponsor:

*sponsor needed*

## Altar Guild Volunteer(s):

Sara Jane Beshore and Gladys Kline

## Communion Bread Sponsor:

November 6 – Cheryl Wiltrout

November 20 – *sponsor needed*

## Communion Set-up Volunteer:

November 6 – Cheryl Wiltrout

November 20 – *volunteer needed*

## Readers for November:

November 6 – Kenneth Keck

November 13 – Cindy Rissmiller

November 20 – Ty Rissmiller

November 27 – Dale Schwoyer

## Councilperson for the Month:

Cindy Rissmiller

# BRANDYWINE



With the help of a Thrivent Grant our busy shoppers were able to obtain 156 items to donate to the Food Pantry last month. These were supplemented by additional items as well as fresh fruits and vegetables from our members. At present more than 30 family units and over 70 individuals are relying on the food bank for assistance.

**Help, of course, is an ongoing need.**

## **Donated items most helpful right now:**

coffee (regular), instant coffee, fruit juices (all kinds), sugar, flour, cooking oil, evaporated milk, Spam, canned chicken and dumplings, beef stew, scalloped /other potato products, pasta and rice sides, Chef Boyardee-style canned foods, soups (ready- to-serve, vegetable beef, New England clam chowder), spaghetti sauce (plain and with meat), Hamburger and Tuna Helper, pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit, salad dressings, ketchup, mayonnaise, snacks of all kinds (including pretzels, chips, pudding, cookies, etc.)

**Personal Care Items:** toothbrushes, combs, brushes, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner

**Cleaning and Disinfectant Products:** including dish soap and laundry detergent.

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## **A NEW FACEBOOK OPPORTUNITY— CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS**

There's a new Facebook page on the block. Congregations in the Brandywine Heights area, who have joined together as Congregational Conversations, have put this together to share news and events. Together we can spread the news that "God is in our land." Check it out!

Click on the following link below and be sure to "Like" and "Follow" the Congregational Conversations page to stay up to date on the latest worship services and events happening in our local congregations.



<https://www.facebook.com/BrandywineHeightsChurches>





- 1 Diane Moyer
- 6 Justin Moyer
- 10 Irene Noll
- 11 Cheryl Wiltrout
- 12 Lisa Landis
- 19 Linwood Merkel
- 23 Gary Alexander Lambert
- 24 Carolyn Dise
- 25 Horace Rothermel
- 25 Emily Jones
- 27 Jeff Wengert
- 28 Baylee Cleaver



- 9 Daniel and Kathy Bailey (20 years)
- 25 Ty and Cindy Rissmiller (33 years)

## “HAVE YOU THANKED THE LORD?”

### Refrain

Have you thanked the Lord?  
Have you praised God's name?  
Don't you know that no tomorrow is quite the same?  
Have you thanked the Lord?  
Have you knelt in prayer,  
and rejoiced that, rain or sunshine, our God is there?

- 1 Hallelujah! Thank the Lord for sun, sand, and sea,  
ev'ry star at night that shines for you and me.  
Blessings so many come our way:  
have you thanked the Lord today? *Refrain*
- 2 Hallelujah! Paradise we taste where we are;  
summer breezes, winter warmth are never far.  
God's love is ever on display:  
have you thanked the Lord today? *Refrain*
- 3 Hallelujah! Joy and peace the Savior will bring.  
Grace amazing! So we lift our voice and sing,  
grateful when clouds are bright or gray:  
have you thanked the Lord today? *Refrain*

Text: Bill LaMotta, 1919-1980

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## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S VISION OF THE WORLD UNDER CHRIST THE KING

He called it “The Beloved Community.” It is a global vision, in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community poverty, hunger, and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict.”

*Lord, may your Beloved Community become reality!*



**Election Day**  
**November 8, 2022**

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” – Proverbs 4:23

# Upcoming Events

- **Dedication of Restored Bells**, Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers – Saturday, November 5
- **Pasta Dinner**, Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville – Saturday, November 5 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. \$10.00/adults, \$5.00/5 and younger. Choice of spaghetti and meatballs or baked ziti (meal includes salad, bread, beverage, and dessert). Take-out available. A portion of the proceeds will go to Lutheran Disaster Response—Hurricane Relief.
- **Christmas Caroling in Topton**, meet at Trinity Lutheran Church on Friday, December 16, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We'll divide into groups and go in different directions, then return in time to warm us with hot chocolate and fellowship.

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## Rejoicing Spirits

### A NEW MINISTRY IN OUR AREA

On **Sunday, November 6, 2022**, St. Paul's UCC, 47 South Whiteoak Street, Kutztown will host THE SECOND Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County worship service. The worship service will begin at 3:00 p.m. and last about one hour.

**What is Rejoicing Spirits?** It is an opportunity specifically designed for people with intellectual disabilities, their families, friends, and caregivers to hear God's word, participate in a "shush free" worship service, and socialize with friends both old and new.

**What does a Rejoicing Spirits worship service look like?** Music, singing, brief messages, fellowship and snacks!

If you have any questions, contact Karen Raudenbush at 610-608-8290 or email at [raudyk@gmail.com](mailto:raudyk@gmail.com); Charlene Fisher at 610-223-9822 or email at [charf1sh@verzon.net](mailto:charf1sh@verzon.net); or Erin Webb at 610-894-9949 or email at [emwebb05@aol.com](mailto:emwebb05@aol.com).

For more information, click here:

[https://webmail.windstream.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en\\_US&id=74692&part=3](https://webmail.windstream.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=74692&part=3)

### COACH WOODEN'S FAVORITE MAXIMS

Pastor Gordon Gross, who is 90 years young, shared "Coach John Wooden's Favorite Maxims." Coach John Wooden (October 14, 1910 – June 4, 2010) was an American basketball coach, most famous for his 27 seasons at UCLA. His record there was 620 wins and 147 losses.

Here are Coach Wooden's Favorite Maxims:

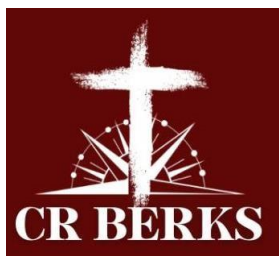
- Happiness begins where selfishness ends.
- Discipline yourself and others won't need to.
- If I am through learning, I am through.
- Tell the truth. That way you won't have to remember a story.
- Don't let making a living prevent you from making a life.
- The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.
- Do not permit what you cannot do to interfere with what you can do.
- Be slow to criticize and quick to commend.
- The time to make friends is before you need them.
- Treat all people with dignity and respect.
- Acquire peace of mind by making the effort to become the best of which you are capable.
- Make each day your masterpiece.
- Always remember that success is peace of mind obtained only through self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you're capable.

Pastor Gross commented: "These statements remind me of some of the numerous statements of wisdom contained in the biblical book of Proverbs. Here are a few that come to mind." There are others interspersed throughout this newsletter. See if you can spot them.

- "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles." – Proverbs 21:23
- "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." – Proverbs 17:22
- "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." – Proverbs 16:18

These are only a few. Proverbs is full of wise and pithy sayings. One that not many people remember reading or hearing is one of my favorites: "Getting involved in an argument that is none of your business is like going down the street and grabbing a dog by the ears". – Proverbs 26:17, *Good News Translation*





**CELEBRATE RECOVERY (CR BERKS)** continues – Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. at Redeemer Bible Fellowship Church in Topton at the Pioneer Grange Hall, 46 East Keller Street, Topton.

This is a Christ-centered recovery program to help people of the community and beyond find freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. We all struggle with some kind of hurt, whether it be depression, anxiety, addiction, loneliness, food issues, alcoholism, parents/family members of addicted children, PTSD, codependency, and the list goes on). They use the 12-steps of recovery and biblical comparisons as well as the Celebrate Recovery 8 Principles based on the Beatitudes. This is a safe place to come together to gain freedom and find healing from those struggles, hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Confidentiality and anonymity are taken very seriously.

There are no dues or fees to join, but they do accept a love offering. No registration is necessary. All you have to do is show up!

If you have any questions, please call 484.349.8415. You can also check out their website at [www.crberks.org](http://www.crberks.org) or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CRBerks>.

Thank you

Members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, On behalf of all the volunteer firefighters and their families from Lyons Volunteer Fire Company #1, we want to extend a sincere thank you for the delicious breakfast you served to us. All of us really enjoyed the fellowship and kindness shown to all of us. Many thanks to all your members and the Boy Scouts that helped prepare and make the meal. We appreciate what you did for our First Responders! – Sincerely yours, *Nathan F. Keller, Fire Chief and Jerry L. Keller, Assistant Fire Chief*

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Dear members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Thank you kindly for your recent donation of food and money to the Brandywine Food Pantry. – Sincerely *The Food Pantry*

“Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.” – Proverbs 10:12

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, Shirley Hertzog, and Irene Noll.

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

**Friends of the congregation:** Charlie Ackerman, John Arndt, Steve Beck (PA), Steve Beck (TX), Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Earl Derr, Marcia Dey, John Drumheller, Jennifer Engle, Family and friends of Magdalena Ferguson, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, DeeDee K., Debra Kenny, Taz Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Julia Lombardo, Joe M., Rodney Miller, Harry Naugle, Johnathan Naugle, Vivian Reist, Randy Schlegel, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Sptaz, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Jason, Lynn, Pat, Sam, Tim, and Vivian.

**OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:** We pray for: peace in the world, and particularly in the Ukraine and eastern Europe; all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters, especially those in Puerto Rico; migrants and refugees; for 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.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Carrie Bausch, Nancy Bennecoff, Gary DeWees, Katie Didyoung, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Peg H., Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Johnson-Agiri Family, Mary Kring, Ella Loose, Michelle Meck, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Tierney Schmeer, Donna Schwoyer, Lesley Wegman, Leah Wiest, Gabby, and Meaghan.

## A BUDGET IS A STATEMENT OF FAITH

What does your church's annual budget represent? Is it a proud menu of the hopes, dreams and missionary ministries your congregation wants to accomplish in the year to come?

Or is it a life-support prescription for how the congregation expects to pay the staff, keep the lights burning, the staff paid, and property maintained? In a workshop when she was stewardship officer for the Episcopal Church, the late Terry Parsons gave this "Devil's Dictionary" definition of a church budget: "It is the means by which we notify the Lord of the limitations we intend to impose on his gifts for the coming year."

If we view the budget — and present it to our congregations — as an administrative necessity to ensure proper financial management, then we shouldn't be surprised to wind up with bare-bones measures that are grudgingly funded. If funded at all. But if we present the budget to our congregations as opportunities to invest in the Reign of God and stretch ourselves to see how much we can do with even the nickels and dimes God has given us, then the possibilities increase.

In the end, a budget is a statement about how a congregation views the future. Do your people trust that ours is the God of abundance who rewards faithful stewards and will stand behind servants who proclaim the Reign of God? If an outsider looked at your budget, what would he or she conclude about your congregation's faith?

And what would be a "God's Dictionary" definition of a church budget? How about, "It is the means by which we make the most of the abundance the Lord is giving us." Hmmm. That will look nice on the cover of the annual report.

--Rob Blezard

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## PSALM 118:1-29

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good and his mercy endures forever., NIV

Thank GOD because he's good,  
because his love never quits.

<sup>2</sup> Tell the world, Israel,  
"His love never quits."

<sup>3</sup> And you, clan of Aaron, tell the world,  
"His love never quits."

<sup>4</sup> And you who fear GOD, join in,  
"His love never quits."

<sup>5</sup> Pushed to the wall, I called to GOD;  
from the wide open spaces, he answered.

<sup>6</sup> GOD's now at my side and I'm not afraid;  
who would dare lay a hand on me?

<sup>7</sup> GOD's my strong champion;  
I flick off my enemies like flies.

<sup>8</sup> Far better to take refuge in GOD  
than trust in people;

<sup>9</sup> Far better to take refuge in GOD  
than trust in celebrities. . . .

<sup>13</sup> I was right on the cliff-edge, ready to fall,  
when GOD grabbed and held me.

<sup>14</sup> GOD's my strength, he's also my song,  
and now he's my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs  
in the camp of the saved?

"The hand of GOD has turned the tide!

<sup>16</sup> The hand of GOD is raised in victory!  
The hand of GOD has turned the tide!"

<sup>17</sup> I didn't die. I lived!

And now I'm telling the world what GOD did.

<sup>18</sup> GOD tested me, he pushed me hard,  
but he didn't hand me over to Death.

<sup>19</sup> Swing wide the city gates—the righteous gates!  
I'll walk right through and thank GOD! . . .

<sup>21</sup> Thank you for responding to me;  
you've truly become my salvation! . . . .

<sup>28</sup> You're my God, and I thank you.

O my God, I lift high your praise.

<sup>29</sup> Thank GOD—he's so good.  
His love never quits!

-The Message

## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

September 30, 2022

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 17,841.82
Thrivent	9,214.95
Checking	2,084.53
Youth	408.66
Fidelity	47,743.25
Cash Reserve	29,421.43
Mission Investment Fund	11,655.08
Local Care	<u>2,390.31</u>

Total: \$ 120,760.03

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **September 30, 2021** \$143,507.92

### September 2022 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

		Income	
Income	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,891.25	\$ 3,136.00	(\$ 6,755.25)

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

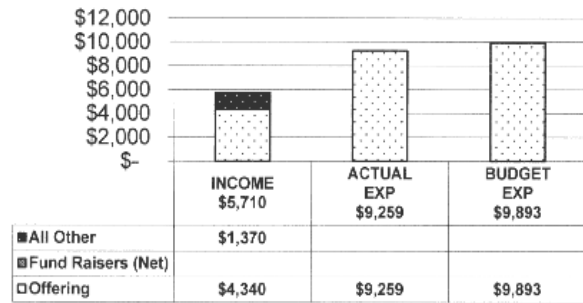
### **A NEW THANKSGIVING TRADITION**

At Thanksgiving, we give thanks for things (food, home, clothing, work) and loved ones (family, friends, pets). But if the people we name aren't present, they may never know how precious they are to us. This November, start a new tradition by writing notes of thanks to people you appreciate.

Follow Paul's model of starting letters with thanksgiving: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Romans 1:8, NIV). Notice how he thanks his addresses by thanking God for them. Paul is specific too, not writing, "Thanks for everything!" Express genuine thanksgiving to God and another person.



### SEPTEMBER 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE



MONTHLY AVERAGE

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

#### INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY SEPTEMBER 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE

	Sep Y-T-D	Average Month
<b>Income</b>		
Offering	\$ 39,064	\$ 4,340
Fund Raisers	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 12,327	\$ 1,370
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 51,391</b>	<b>\$ 5,710</b>
<b>Actual Exp</b>	<b>\$ 83,328</b>	<b>\$ 9,259</b>
<b>Budget Exp</b>	<b>\$ 89,041</b>	<b>\$ 9,893</b>
<b>Shortage *</b>	<b>\$ (31,937)</b>	<b>\$ (3,549)</b>

**\*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2022 ACTUAL Expense  
Less Benevolence & Major Repairs/Purchases**

### **HONORING OUR VETERANS**

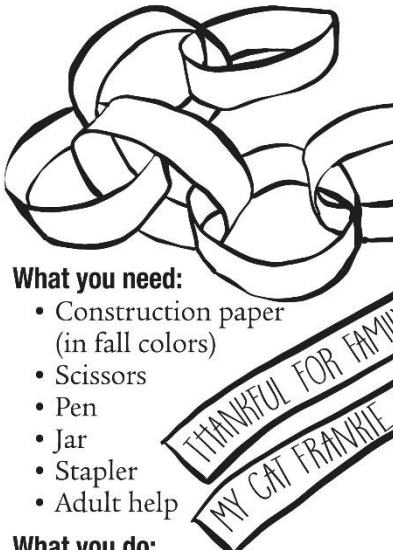
Katherine Lee Bates, who penned "America the Beautiful" (1904), was surely thinking about veterans when she wrote the third stanza:

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife.  
Who more than self the country loved  
And mercy more the life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine!



## Links of GRATITUDE

Make this meaningful decoration for your Thanksgiving table.



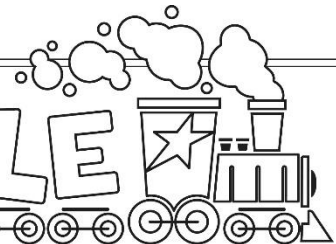
**What you need:**

- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help

**What you do:**

1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you're thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.

## PUZZLE



### Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves. What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

*Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.*

rooted

built

thankfulness

strengthened

continue

faith

overflowing

received

Lord

So then, just as you \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to live your lives in him, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ up in him, \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ as you  
 were taught, and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ .

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness

# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## What's happening with Growing Young?

*Growing Young is an initiative lived out in the NEPSynod, congregations, and individuals' ministry. Growing Young was our synod assembly theme in 2021, but it is not a once-and-done theme. Growing Young is something we strive to accomplish together, continually.*

Congregations throughout our synod have been diving deep into the journey of Growing Young. Some are just beginning and exploring the concept whereas others are already incorporating it within their congregation and even helping beginners to gain the whole Growing Young experience. In case you are new to Growing Young, Growing Young is a movement in the NEPA Synod and throughout the greater ELCA and is based on a book of the same name. The book studied churches of all sizes, denominations, and locations throughout the country that are maintaining and engaging youth and young adults in their congregations. What does Growing Young really look like though?

Growing Young will look different for every congregation and the journey to get there will not be the same. Devoting time and commitment to the 6 core characteristics is the only way for your congregation to work towards a Growing Young outcome. These commitments orbit around a Jesus-centered community and help us truly become the church. Now is the time to pass down leadership and pastoral roles to those eager to assist and prioritize youth & young families everywhere. Now is the time to focus on warm relationships and empathize with today's youth. Now is the time to be the best neighbor and share Jesus' message seriously.

Is your congregation ready to Grow Young? Resources are available to help guide your community to the Growing Young mindset. For more information, visit [godslove.org/growingyoung](https://godslove.org/growingyoung) or by reaching out to the Growing Young coordinator, Stacey Burke at [stacey@nepssynod.org](mailto:stacey@nepssynod.org) or at 610-266-5101 ext. 10.

## Let's Grow Young together!

# COMING UP:

Nov. 5: WeLove

Nov. 12: Faith Formation Saturdays

Nov. 14-15: Bishop Conference



*Visit us:*

<http://www.Godslove.org/>

JUNE  
1-3

**SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY  
2023**



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

"GIVE THANKS TO  
THE LORD, FOR  
GOD IS GOOD;  
GOD'S LOVE  
ENDURES  
FOREVER."

1 CHRONICLES 16:34




*Faith in Action*

## Hope's Table

A Synodically Authorized  
Worshipping Community in  
Reading, where the community  
comes together to eat, worship,  
and build relationships. A  
community fostered in the  
poorest neighborhood of the  
city. It all started as a small  
gathering but has grown into a  
comfortable place for people  
who wouldn't otherwise feel  
comfortable within the walls of  
a church.

Tuesdays 5:30PM  
601 N Front St  
Reading PA  
Pastor Mary Wolfe

# NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b>	2 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	3 10:00am-Coloring Group  Joint council meeting with Christ Mertz	4 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	5 Dedication of Restored Bell, Hope, Bowers 4:00-7:00pm-Pasta Dinner, Christ Mertz
6 <u>All Saint's Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion -Fellowship -Stewardship Meeting after fellowship 3:00pm-Rejoicing Spirits, St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown  <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</b>	7 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal  <b>ELECTION DAY</b>	9 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	10 9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton	11 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton  <b>VETERANS DAY</b>	12 10:00-12:00pm-Faith Formation Session
13 <u>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship (Hymn Sing) 2:00pm-Pack Thanksgiving Boxes at Christ Mertz  <b>PASTOR RUTH OFF</b>	14 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	15 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal	16 12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17	18 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	19 8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Topton
20 <u>Christ the King Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship -Stewardship Sunday -Annual Congregational Meeting after worship -Fellowship  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	21 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting	22 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal	23 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service, Trinity, Topton	24  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	25 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	26 1:00pm-Christmas Decorating
27 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u> 10:00am-Worship	28 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal	30 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	27	28 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	29