

## **THE GOOD NEWSLETTER**

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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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.-11:30 a.m.), Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.



**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.*



## OF SEEDS AND CLOUDS

My dear Partners in Christ,

A few days ago, I had the privilege to drive through the side roads from New Jerusalem through the Oley Valley and back. When I came out of church the sky was a gorgeous blue with one huge bright white cloud high up in the sky. It was brilliant, but also a very unusual form: a tall rectangle with a straight side and a few odd shapes at its corners. It was so unusual I had to stop and really look at it. Clouds. Clouds can be fascinating.

As I drove through the hills and beautiful woods with tall trees and changing leaves, I was struck by the beauty that surrounds us. Then, when I drove through the valley, I noticed how some of the fields had been harvested, and others, corn and oats, were still waiting. Seeds surrounded me, seeds waiting to be harvested. Most will provide food: corn for many products for us and for livestock, and some oats will even appear on my breakfast table. But not all of the seeds will be used in the short term. Some will be stored to be planted next year. What beauty, what bounty surrounds us!

By the time of my return trip, the clouds had changed. There were a lot more of them, and they were elongated across the horizon, lower hanging, layered on top of one another in various shades of grey, but not threatening. They were more the kind of clouds that accompany the changes in temperature we are experiencing.

Clouds. A recent lesson from Exodus recounted how when God came down to meet the Children of Israel in the wilderness, the mountain God descended upon, Sinai (also known as Horeb) was covered in thick clouds. The clouds were there to protect the people from seeing God's *full* glory, for that glory would have been too much for them to bear. You may also recall that when Jesus was transfigured, the disciples glimpsed that he was changed, even radiant; but before God spoke to those gathered, a cloud descended upon them.

Clouds. They can be high and white and puffy and glorious. They can also be grey and obscure the sun.

Sometimes in life the present and the future seem bright and clear, and we feel a sense of freedom and vigor. Other times, however, it seems that the future and even the present is clouded-over and threatening storm clouds are on the horizon. Sometimes it seems that we are actually *in* a cloud, in a fog, scarcely able to see clearly enough to take the next step. For some among us, that's the reality of their lives at this moment.

I learned a new word today: caliginous. It means misty, dim, obscure. I'd add "cloudy." For this congregation the future and even the present can seem caliginous: misty, dim, obscure, cloudy. It can be disheartening, discouraging, and anxiety provoking *unless*, unless we remember that God's glory may be hidden in such "clouds." What God may be working in the present, in the time of many unknowns, may be like seeds sprouting underground, may be more wonderful than we can ever imagine.

When clouds cover our area, as much as we'd like to see blue skies and sun, we can't do anything about the clouds. We just have to wait, wait for the skies to clear and have confidence that the sun is there even when we can't see it. In the meantime, we can look around for the beauty and bounty still around us: those fields, literal and figurative, those fields full of seeds, some to feed us now, some to grow what we need for the future.

Just as our farmers are working hard, even in cloudy weather, to harvest the seeds in our fields and sort out what will be used in the future, be assured, members of New Jerusalem, that council members and others are hard at work sorting out and engaging in what we know at this time needs to be done to help open up the future. At the same time, we are trusting that even though what we know of our future is caliginous, somewhat obscure, God has not abandoned us. Just as the sun still rises every morning even if we cannot see it, God is saying, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Pastor Ruth

For the fruit of all creation,  
Thanks be to God.  
For God's gifts to ev'ry nation,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe keeping,  
Thanks be to God.

*-F. Pratt Green*



# NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, October 16:

- Denny Beshore gave an update on the church finances and the proposed budget for 2024 was voted on and approved by council.
- Given that council has the authority and responsibility to appoint members to fill vacated spots on council until the next annual meeting, council voted to and asked Ken Keck to fill a vacant position for the present. New council members will be elected at the Annual Meeting.
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2024. The snow date is February 11.
- A luncheon will be held immediately following the Congregational Meeting on Stewardship Sunday, November 12.
- The survey of our property has been completed and permanent markers should be in place soon.
- The decision about whether to proceed with Partners for Sacred Spaces to assist us with discerning the future of our building was postponed. In the meantime we will ask members for ideas about what uses a building such as ours might be put to and who might be interested in the building.
- The time for Bible Study was changed to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays.
- Congregational Conversations is now known as Brandywine Area Ministries.
- Members of our Troop #585 are attempting to start a cub pack. They need 5 participants to start.
- Decorating the church for Christmas will take place on Friday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m.
- The decision about repairing the light fixtures in the basement was tabled. The current estimate is that it would cost approximately \$2,000.00.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m.**

## NOVEMBER SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of a Bulletin sponsor for November 5, an Altar Guild volunteer, and Communion Bread sponsors and Communion Set-up volunteers for November 22 (Thanksgiving Eve), and 26 (Christ the King Sunday). Please sign up if you are able to sponsor or volunteer for any of these items.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

It's that time of year again. Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5. Time to "fall back." Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night, November 4th.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Monday morning Bible Study will be held on **Monday, November 13, 20, and 27, at 1:00 p.m.** **PLEASE NOTE** the new time change will now be 1:00 p.m. There will be no Bible Study on Monday, November 6.

## COLORING GROUP

The Coloring Group will be meeting on **Thursday, November 2, at 10:00 a.m.** If you can't join us, pages can be sent to you. If interested, contact Phyllis Fenstermacher at 610.682.2423 or Diane Keller at 610.682.4152.

## GETTYSBURG ADDRESS: 160 Years Later

On November 3-4, 2023 the United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg Campus, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. A symposium commemorating The Gettysburg Address 160 Years Later. Reckoning with Abraham Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg, this conference engages current intersections of public theology and religion with the creation of national narratives, racial capitalism and practices of domination, democracy and the theological imagination, and possibilities of justice and hope from within struggle. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board to register if you are interested in attending.

## FALL BAZAAR

A fall bazaar will be held at the Heilman House, 45 Home Road, Topton on **Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Fall and Christmas crafts, cookies, soup, food, raffle, and treasures. For more information, call Curt M. at 718-844-3881 or Marlane D. at 610-641-1254.

## CAMPFIRE WITH THE SCOUTS

On **Saturday, November 4, from 3:00-9:00 p.m.** we will hold our annual fall campfire with the scouts. This is your chance to roast hot dogs, get sticky with 'smores, and just enjoy being together on a crisp fall evening.

### **2023 SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

The Boy Scouts from Troop 585 are holding their annual Scouting for Food collection. Please bring your donations to church during the week of **November 5th**. All food collected will be donated to the Brandywine Food Pantry.

### **ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

On **Sunday, November 5**, 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 in remembrance of those who have died within the past 12 months: John Arndt, Nancy Bennecoff, Ted Eshbach, Carl Kline, Sheila Long, Irene Noll, Jeffrey Schloder, Cleon Smith, and Betty Ream Snyder. Each person present will be invited to light a candle in remembrance of their own baptism and as a way to remember and thank God for someone who has died. Join us for worship and Holy Communion.

### **BINGO FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOPTON HOME**

Brandywine Ministries with Youth is hosting Bingo for the residents of the Lutheran Home on **Saturday, November 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Help is needed to transport the residents and assist them with playing. There will be a special recognition for Veteran residents at the home. Student and adult volunteers are needed. Arrive at 1:00 p.m. for check-in and instructions. We will meet at the main entrance of Deibert Hall. Bingo will start around 2:00 p.m. and we should finish about 3:30 p.m.

### **SOUP AND SANDWICH SALE**

St. Peter's UCC, Topton, will be holding a soup and sandwich sale on **Saturday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

### **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 12, 2023** along with Stewardship Sunday. Deacon Kat Tigerman will be our guest preacher. Following the service, members of the congregation will consider the proposed budget for 2024 and there will also be an update on where we are in discerning our future. We will have a catered luncheon. Please be sure to join us. Remember, 25 voting members are needed for a quorum.

### **COMPASSIONATE CRAFTERS**

Want to crochet, knit, or sew to God's glory? Join Trinity's Compassionate Crafters. Meetings take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton. We are in desperate need of sewers! We are working on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Our next meetings will be held on **Thursday, November 3 and 17**.

### **HELPING HARVEST/TOPTON MOBILE MARKET**

The Helping Harvest food distribution will take place on **Tuesday, November 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Brandywine Heights MS/IS.

### **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 18**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton.

### **COOKIES AND STUFF**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown, will be holding an event for youth on Saturday, **November 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Youth will be able to stuff and animal, decorate and eat cookies, cocoa, and popcorn and watch the movie "Star."

### **POINSETTIA ORDERS**

We will be decorating the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service with red and white poinsettias this year. They will be in 5" pots and cost \$4.50 each. Please be sure to indicate either red or white on your order enclosed in this newsletter. Orders and payment are due to the church office by **Sunday, November 19**.

### **DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER**

The deadline for the December newsletter is **Sunday, November 19**. Please have all articles and announcements submitted to the church office by this date. Thank you!

### **THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church will be hosting the Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service this year. Holy Communion will be celebrated. The service will be held on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.** Let us join together to give thanks to God for all his bountiful blessings.

### **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 23**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES FOR FRIEND, INC.

We will again be filling Thanksgiving Boxes for Friend, Inc. In addition to the 2 boxes we fill at church, we are going to use a \$250 Thrivent grant to purchase additional items. Items needed are canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, large can of fruit juice, stuffing mix, bag of apples or applesauce, bag of potatoes (may substitute canned potatoes or boxed potatoes), cookies, cocoa or coffee, and holiday napkins. If you were unable to sign up for items in church and you would like to participate, you may drop off items on the list at church. Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will be decorating the church for Advent and Christmas on **Friday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m.** Many hands and creative thoughts not only get the project done, but add to the fun.

## CHRISTMAS AND GOSPEL CONCERT

A Christmas and Southern Gospel Concert featuring The Hyssongs at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 117 East Arch Street, Fleetwood on **Saturday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m.** (doors open at 5:00 p.m.) Tickets - \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, Children 5-12 \$5. To purchase tickets, call 610-657-8727 or 610-944-9820.

## GIFTS FOR CHILDREN THROUGH FRIEND, INC.

We will again be purchasing clothing for children through Friend, Inc.'s Christmas Cheer Program. If you would like to participate, please contact Cheryl Wilttrout by November 1<sup>st</sup> (or when you receive your newsletter). You will be given the name of a child, including the gender, age, and size. After you shop, return the gift to church along with a box, wrapping paper, and the name given to you. All clothing items must be returned to the church by **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. After church that day they will be delivered to Friend, Inc. Thank you!

## DATE SAVER

Our **Sunday, December 24**, worship services will be held in the morning at 10:00 a.m. and our Christmas Eve service will be held at **5:00 p.m.** Holy Communion will be celebrated and a time of fellowship will follow the service.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS – QUICK CHECK:

**November 4** – Fall Bazaar, Heilman House, Topton from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**November 4** – Campfire with the Scouts, at New Jerusalem, from 3:00-9:00 p.m.

**November 11** – Soup and Sandwich Sale, St. Peter's UCC, Topton, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**November 11** – Bingo for Residents of the Topton Home, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**November 18** – Cookies and Stuff Youth Event, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**November 22** – Thanksgiving Eve Community Service at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 7:00 p.m.

**December 1** – Christmas Decorating at New Jerusalem at 7:00 p.m.

**December 2** – Christmas and Gospel Concert, St. Paul's, Fleetwood, at 6:00 p.m.



- 1 Diana Moyer
- 6 Justin Moyer
- 11 Cheryl Wilttrout
- 12 Lisa Landis
- 15 Thomas Turner
- 19 Linwood Merkel
- 23 Gary Alexander Lambert
- 24 Carolyn Dise
- 25 Emily Jones
- 25 Horace Rothermel
- 27 Jeff Wengert
- 28 Baylee Cleaver



- 9 Daniel and Kathy Bailey (21 years)
- 25 Ty and Cynthia Rissmiller (34 years)

 **NOVEMBER**  
**WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS**

**Altar Flower Sponsors:**

November 5 – Gladys Kline and Jane Bennett  
November 12 – Larry and Faye Dey  
November 19 – Dale Schwoyer  
November 26 – The Rissmiller Family

**Bulletin Sponsors:**

November 5 – *sponsor needed*  
November 12 – Elaine Seip  
November 19 – Korinne Hotzman  
November 26 – Cheryl Wiltrout

**Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:**

Gladys Kline

**Altar Guild Volunteer(s):**

*volunteer needed*

**Communion Bread Sponsor:**

November 5 – Gladys Kline  
November 22 – *sponsor needed*  
November 26 – *sponsor needed*

**Communion Set-up Volunteer:**

November 5 – Gladys Kline  
November 22 – *volunteer needed*  
November 26 – *sponsor needed*

**Readers:**

November 5 – Cindy Rissmiller  
November 12 – Gladys Kline  
November 19 – Ty Rissmiller  
November 26 – Sara Jane Beshore

**Councilperson(s) for the Month:**

Cindy Rissmiller

 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, Erma Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Gabriele Sanders, and Dorothy Turner.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT:**  
**Members:** Holly Allen, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Brian Keller, Diane Keller, Forrest Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Lloyd Moyer, and Horace Rothermel.

**Friends of the congregation:** Charlie Ackerman, Brad Auge, Sr., Brad Auge, Jr., Steve Beck, Sharon Bennett, Jason Beshore, Darlene Bogert, Earl Derr, John Drumheller, Jennifer Engle, Alice Epler, Dawson Freed (military), Karen Gossert, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Debra Kenny, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Julia Lombardo, Emma Loose, Joe M., Vivian Reist, Family and friends of Jeffrey Schloder, Arlan Schwoyer, Patricia Sigfried, Jean Smith, Shawn Spatz, Michael Stevens, Robert Taylor, Johnathan Wagner, Tim Walck, Leticia Weaver, Richard Weller, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Jason, Kim, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

**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:** Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, Johnson-Agiri Family, Mary Kring, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Tierney Schmeer, Donna Schwoyer, Lesley Wegman, and Linda Wegman.



**ELECTION DAY**  
**Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

**September 30, 2023**

Asset Accounts	Balance
Memorial	\$ 18,776.20
Thrivent	10,749.32
Checking	(372.39)
Youth	412.76
Fidelity	20,530.61
Cash Reserve	23,428.42
Mission Investment Fund	11,701.67
Local Care	<u>2,231.27</u>

Total: \$ 87,457.86

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **September 30, 2022** \$ 131,475.41

### September 2023 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

Income			
Income	Required	Actual	
Used For:	Per Month	Income	Difference
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,860.00	\$ 3,466.00	\$ (6,394.00)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2023  
Budget Passed by Congregation  
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

### SOME THANKSGIVING HUMOR

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

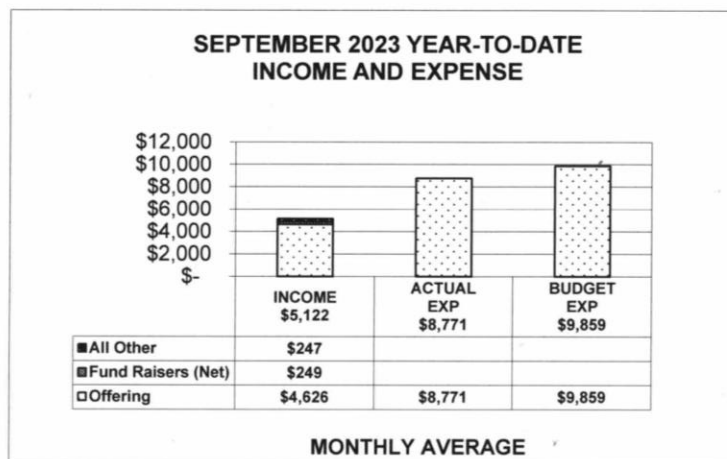
Why did the turkey decline dessert?  
*Because it was stuffed.*

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?  
*To prove he wasn't a chicken.*

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?  
*Your nose.*

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?  
*There wasn't enough thyme.*

Why did the turkey leave the band?  
*People were fighting over the drumsticks.*



CALENDAR YEAR 2023 INFORMATION  
NORMAL OPERATIONS  
(DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)

### INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY SEPTEMBER 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE

	Sep Y-T-D	Average Month
<b>Income</b>		
Offering	\$ 41,632	\$ 4,626
Fund Raisers	\$ 2,244	\$ 249
Other	\$ 2,220	\$ 247
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 46,096	\$ 5,122
<b>Actual Exp</b>	\$ 78,935	\$ 8,771
<b>Budget Exp</b>	\$ 88,735	\$ 9,859
<b>Shortage *</b>	\$ (32,839)	\$ (3,649)

\*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2023 ACTUAL Expense  
Less Benevolence & Major Repairs/Purchases

### FOR MEDITATION

#### IN TIMES OF THANKSGIVING

God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise

*Pause to ponder this question.*

God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks

*Jaroslav Vajda, b. 1919  
Used by permission.*





The **Brandywine Food Pantry** is committed to relieving hunger through the acquisition and distribution of food to individuals and families from the Brandywine/Topton area, the surrounding territories and neighborhoods, and anyone who comes who is in need. Thank you very much to the members of the local churches, civic organizations, schools, businesses, and individuals from our local community for your continued support of the Brandywine Food Pantry.

The **Brandywine Food Pantry needs your help!** Please see a detailed list of items (at the end of this article) that are always needed by the Brandywine Food Pantry. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items, personal care items, paper products, and/or household supplies, to your church on a Sunday morning. You can also drop off your donations (items and/or cash or checks) at the Brandywine Food Pantry, which is located at St. Peter's UCC in Topton (come to the back door), on the first three Mondays of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the first three Tuesdays of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please feel free to contact Jill Shade, the Pantry Administrator (484.861.7117) or [brandywinefoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:brandywinefoodpantry@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the Brandywine Food Pantry's desperate need for non-perishable food items, personal care items, paper products, household supplies, and monetary donations.

Do you like to do volunteer work? The Brandywine Food Pantry is also in need of volunteers who are willing to man the pantry when it's open to patrons (1 volunteer per day / 1 day per month). The pantry is open 5 times per month for a total of 18 hours. The pantry is also in desperate need of volunteers who would be willing to help stock shelves (usually on Mondays). Please contact Jill Shade, the Pantry Administrator if you would like more information about volunteering at the Brandywine Food Pantry.

The Brandywine Food Pantry is always in need of the following items:

**Breakfast:** cereal, oatmeal (regular and instant), pancake mix, pancake syrup

**Canned items:** (especially those with meat) Beef stew, chicken a la king, chicken breast, chili, ham, Spam, soups (all kinds), tuna

**Meals (meat/tuna needed):** Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, sloppy joe sauce

**Microwave/Canned meals:** Chef Boyardee meals (beefaroni, beef ravioli, lasagna, spaghetti)

**Canned vegetables:** beans (all kinds), carrots, tomatoes (diced and stewed)

**Canned fruit:** applesauce, fruit cup, mandarin oranges, sliced peaches, pears, pineapples, etc.

**Condiments:** ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, pickles, salad dressing

**Beverages:** apple juice, grape juice, cranberry raspberry juice, coffee (regular), hot chocolate, tea, dry milk

**Extras:** jelly, marshmallow creme, peanut butter

**Baking items:** brownie mix, cake mixes (boxes), cooking oil, evaporated milk, flour, sugar

**Snacks:** cookies, crackers, snacks (individual packs)

#### **Gluten free and/or sugar free items**

**Dry Goods:** rice (preferably in boxes), noodles, pasta (all kinds), Ramen noodles, potatoes (mashed), potatoes (scalloped)

**Paper products:** paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue

**Personal care items:** bar soap, hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, personal hygiene items (hairbrushes, combs, individually-wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.)

**Cleaning and disinfecting products:** dish soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant products, etc.)

**Paper products, personal care items and cleaning supplies, and disinfectant products are no longer purchased by the Food Pantry. Please consider donating these items.**

**\*\*\* Please check expiration dates on donated food products.**

**The Brandywine Food Pantry cannot accept expired food products.**

## FOR MEDITATION

### WARS AND RUMORS OF WAR

Once again. Once again—or is it endlessly? Once again we hear of war, this time in Israel and Gaza: war threatening to spread quickly to other areas in the Middle East. And even as our attention is captured by the news from this area, war has not ceased in the Ukraine and major conflicts which can so easily spill into war continue in so many places we can scarcely name them all. Our nation struggles not only with how to govern itself, but how to respond to these crises.

*God of the earthquake*  
*God of the storm*  
*God of the trumpet blast*  
*How does the creature say Woe*  
*How does the creature say Save*

*Jaroslav Vajda, b. 1919*  
Used by permission.



How do we say *Woe*?  
How do we say *Save*?  
We pray, even if it is as simple as the thought,  
“Help.” “Lord help us.”

*Almighty God, in penitence we come before you, acknowledging the sin that is within us. We share the guilt of all who slay their fellow human beings because of race or faith or nation. Forgive us and change us by your love, that your word of hope may be heard clearly throughout the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

*ELW p. 62*

*O God, strength of those who believe in you, give comfort and clarity of vision to us in this time of need. Open our ears to hear your voice and obey your will; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound; and open our hands that violent resolution of conflict may cease, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

*ELW p. 62*

*God of the neighbor*  
*God of the foe*  
*God of the pruning hook*  
*How does the creature say Love*  
*How does the creature say Peace*

*Jaroslav Vajda, b. 1919*  
Used by permission.

Love. Peace. For our world. For ourselves.

*Almighty God, all thoughts of truth and peace come from you. Kindle in the hearts of all your children the love of peace, and guide with your wisdom the leaders of the nations, so that your kingdom will go forth in peace and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

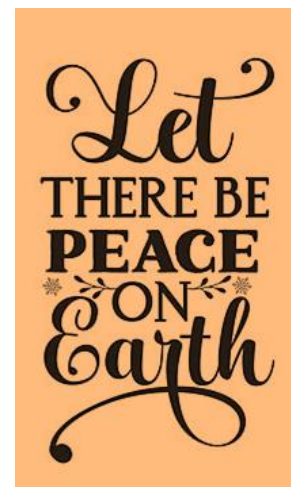


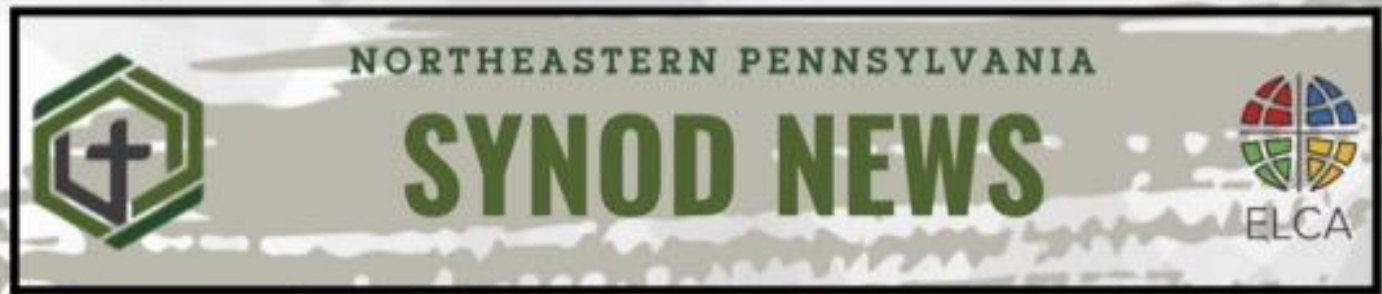
And finally,

*O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

[Evening Prayer - 1928 Book of Common Prayer](#)

*Pastor Ruth*





## *Interconnected, Diverse, and Wild Creation*

Have you ever worked on a crochet or knit project, and got to a point where your yarn ends up tied in a bird nest-looking mess? Or maybe you're one that works with a fishing line, and while re-spooling a reel you end up with a knot with loops and swoops that make you scratch your head and wonder, "Now what?"

I've noticed that when I experience the dilemma of a knotted skein, I feel frustration and anger. If I'm not in my clearest headspace, I will reactively pull one loop at a time, looking for one with any ability to move. "This one moves? Great!" I'll pull it in either direction until it stops. Still knotted? Find another! And again, and again. If I'm not careful I can end up tightening the knot even further, never to be unwound and destined for the scrap pile.

On my clearer days, I can take a jumbled mess of a knot and get it unwound and collected into a smaller ball of yarn without even needing to cut it from the rest! In Times like this, I have found, that the frustration and the anger are still present, yet in letting them pass while I pause, I create the opportunity to take care and intention in my untangling.

I wonder if God feels like that sometimes when, as the interconnected, diverse, and wild Creation that God so deeply loves, we get ourselves all knotted up through broken relationships, judgments, and ignorant acts. I wonder, does God reactively start pulling at us to take action? Does God accept our jumbled mess, allowing us to make different choices and seek right relationships that honor our connectedness? Does God enjoy the feeling of seeing us come together to co-create something new and beautiful?

May you know and trust that the One who has knit you together in the womb is the One who is eager and ready to create goodness and mercy in and through you this day and always. Blessings on your detangling.

Reverend Lauren Applegate  
On Leave From Call





We Love 2023:  
The Reconciling  
in Christ Process

Saturday, November 4, 2023  
8:30AM-3PM  
at The Lutheran Center  
2354 Grove Rd., Allentown

Join the synod's LGBTQIA+ Ministry Team as we host a special day of education, information, and fellowship on this year's theme: The Reconciling In Christ process. We are thrilled to welcome Carla Christopher, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice Ministries in the Lower Susquehanna and Delaware-Maryland synods, to work with us on integrating our commitment to racial justice into our RIC efforts.



SAVE <sup>THE</sup> DATE  
**synod**  
**assembly**  
JUNE 8TH 2024

NATIONAL  
**YOUTH**  
GATHERING

Registration - now open!



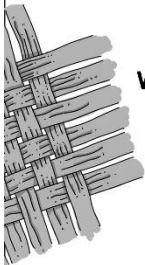
[www.elca.church/gathering](http://www.elca.church/gathering)



*This Thanksgiving, we acknowledge  
this land is Indigenous*



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



**What you need:**

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

**What you do:**

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!

# PUZZLE

## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_



Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_



The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_



Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also



supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

\_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. *2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV*



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

# NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	2 10:00am-Coloring Group	3 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton	4 9:00-2:00pm-Fall Bazaar at the Heilman House  3:00-9:00pm-Campfire with the Scouts
			ALL SAINTS' DAY			
5 <u>All Saints Sunday</u> 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -All Saints Sunday -Pastor Ruth to preach at Trinity, Tipton -Fellowship after worship -Scouting for Food Collection	6 NO Bible Study  12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	7  ELECTION DAY	8 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	9 9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Tipton	10 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton	11  Veterans Day
12 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:15am-Worship -Stewardship Sunday -Deacon Kat Tigerman to preach -Congregational Meeting after worship and luncheon	13 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  1:00pm-Bible Study  7:00pm-Council Mtg.	14 11:00am-1:00pm-Helping Harvest Food Distribution at Brandywine Heights IS/MS	15 12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon  12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	16	17 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton	18 8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Tipton
19 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:15am-Worship -Fellowship after worship -Poinsettia Order Deadline	20 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  1:00pm-Bible Study	21	22 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at New Jerusalem	23  OFFICE CLOSED	24 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton	25
26 <u>Christ the King Sunday</u> 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion	27 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  1:00pm-Bible Study	28	29 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	30		