

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.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.*



Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I write this today, it definitely feels like fall. The temperatures dropped dramatically. Overnight we went from sleeping with windows open and just a sheet, to windows closed and blankets. By the time you get this, Indian Summer may have arrived for a last hurrah. Yes, it definitely feels like fall.

Fall brings not only a change in the weather, but a change in pace. Even as we continue to adjust to the restrictions and changes and uncertainties in our lives brought about by the pandemic, we are thinking about getting ready for winter, and can feel the holidays approaching. We wonder how will we handle these this year.

With the coming of fall, Election Day is approaching quickly and we are not only faced with the question of how we will vote, as in will we vote by mail-in ballot or go to the polls, but also the question of **how will we vote faithfully**.

Faith informs and influences *every* part of our lives. Just as we cannot separate faith from the way we act in our families, a Christian cannot separate faith from politics. Whenever we pray for “daily bread,” that includes a prayer for good government. While we as Christians do not tell others *whom* or *what* to vote for, Christians vote and encourage others to do so. As we talked about in the last newsletter, God calls us to do our part in creating and sustaining good government, government that looks out for the well-being and safety of *all* of its citizens and its resources and also promotes care of all peoples and all or creation.

Doing our part includes voting, voting faithfully.

What does it mean to vote faithfully? It means seriously *exploring* the issues facing us as we choose our leaders and representatives. It also means *continuing to grow in understanding* of what God desires. Sometimes it means taking a break from information overload and letting God’s Spirit settle us.

In a recent article in *The Morning Call**, Pastor Stephen Shussett reminds us of several things:

1. Our first responsibility is to vote. “Not to do so is an affront to every person who risked their lives or died for this right.” He quotes Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was executed because of his political action against Hitler, “Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” To do nothing is, in the words of Father Thomas Merton, to be a “guilty bystander.”
2. God gives us clear direction: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” In three gospels Jesus is asked, “Which commandment is the first of all?” You remember what he said: “Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself.” Jews, Christians and Muslims share these commands and 13 world religions share versions of the Golden Rule, such as “Do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.”

We continue to study and pray for discernment of God’s will. During the last several weeks our lessons focused on our responsibility to care for the vulnerable, to show mercy in the same extravagantly generous ways as God has and continues to be merciful to us.

As we consider the candidates and referendum items on our ballots, we ask, “Who will be a *wise* leader? Who, in the words of our pledge of allegiance, *will promote liberty and justice for all*? Who are the vulnerable we need to keep in mind, especially those who have little or no voice?”

My prayer, then, for you, for myself and for all in our nation, is for guidance on how to vote, how to vote faithfully.

Pastor Ruth

* *Morning Call* Sept. 12, 2020, p. 17.

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our council meeting on September 20th:

- Worship and Music Committee and council Committees have agreed to continue to hold worship in the sanctuary the first and third Sundays of the month, and worship via Zoom on the other weeks until we find a way to livestream worship on Zoom so that all can “attend” worship in the sanctuary.

Each service will be at 10:00 a.m. Guidelines for worship in the sanctuary are included in this mailing.

PASTOR RUTH will be on vacation from Thursday, October 1 through Thursday, October 8. If you would need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Tom Lang at 215.527.4213.

BIBLE STUDY continues with the book of Acts at 11:00 a.m. on Mondays, October 12, 19, and 26 via Zoom. If you would like to join us, call or email Pastor Ruth and she can send you the link.

THREADS FOR OTHERS – If you need material to make masks or yarn for cowls and hats for seafarers, let Pastor Ruth know. Supplies are available at church.

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the November 2020 newsletter is **Sunday, October 18**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

As part of our continuing adaptation to the pandemic, we will be offering three ways to worship with members of our congregation. While we long to gather together in our sanctuary, we recognize that not everyone would be able or feel safe to do so. At the same time, we recognize that not everyone has access to the internet or finds Zoom to be a meaningful way to worship.

As noted above, our current plans are to gather **in our church building Sunday, October 4 and October 18 at 10:00 a.m.** We will be worshipping via **Zoom** on Sunday, **October 11 and 25 at 10:00 a.m.** **Communion on the Parking Lot** will be

offered **Saturday, October 17 at 5:00 p.m.** (Rain date Sunday, October 18.) Note change in time.

In order to minimize the possibility of exposure to COVID-19, the services in the sanctuary and on the parking lot will each be about 30 minutes.

Information on how to connect for Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other methods is available.

In addition to these three opportunities to “gather,” bulletins are being mailed or emailed to those who request them so that they can worship at home. Those not able to join us for our Zoom worship services on Sunday mornings, can watch the services on our Facebook page or on our website <https://newjerusalem.lutheran.weebly.com> under the “Zoom Worship Services” tab. We actually know that people who are not members are joining us in worship through these means, so this has become an opportunity for sharing the good news with others, an opportunity for what is known as evangelism.

If you would like to receive a bulletin via mail or email, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or njelchurch@windstream.net.

Bulletins are also available on our website: <http://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>.

COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

On Saturday evening, October 17, at **5:00 p.m.** we will hold communion on the parking lot. (Sunday, October 18, is the rain date.) *Note the change in time.*

At this service, in commemoration of Francis of Assisi, we will include a **blessing for the animals**. If you bring an animal, please be sure it is on a leash or in an appropriate container. Don't want to transport an animal? Bring a picture.

During worship, participants can either stay in their cars or bring lawn chairs to sit on. Masks are to be worn when interacting with others at the appropriate distance.

These short services (about ½ hour) allow us to not only share the meal our Lord gave us, but also to see and visit with one another.

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS and Worship and Music will continue to incorporate them into our worship services.

COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly. On **Thursday, October 8, at 10:00 a.m.** the group will get together downstairs at church to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. Pages will be provided. Feel free to bring your own supplies, though colored pencils and markers will also be provided. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.



If you are interested, let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know. 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.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15 for a month. Altar Flowers can also be sponsored on the Sundays we gather in our church building. The cost for sponsorship is \$35.00.

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

Flower Sponsors for October:

October 4 – *sponsor needed*
October 11 – Lucille Jones
October 18 – Dale Schwoyer
October 25 – Jeannette DeLong

Bulletin Sponsors for October:

October 4 – *sponsor needed*
October 11 – Lucille Jones
October 18 – Phyllis Fenstermacher
October 25 – Jeannette DeLong

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for October:

Dan and Joanne Pauley

PASTORAL CARE DURING THE CURRENT SITUATION

Pastor Ruth is available via phone and electronic means to provide care to anyone in our congregation or seeking care from us. Currently, she is monitoring whether and when she is allowed to enter hospitals or meeting with nursing home patients. Please continue to let her know when

someone enters the hospital or when anyone is experiencing a change in health or situation.

As of this writing, at Lehigh Valley Health Network, community clergy are only permitted to visit patients who are nearing end of life and may only visit to offer communion or last rites. However, pastoral care services (chaplains) are available at each hospital to support and attend to patients' diverse spiritual needs.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

October 16, 18, 23, and 24

Postponed from June, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly will be held virtually the third and fourth weekends in October. Sessions will take place for several hours each of the four days. The assembly could not be postponed until we could meet in person, because Bishop Zeiser's tenure as our bishop ends in December.

Our thanks to Sara Jane Beshore and Dale Schwoyer who, along with Pastor Ruth, will be our delegates to this assembly. It is going to be a whole new experience having discussions and voting electronically. The synod is doing everything in its power to ensure that things proceed as smoothly as possible. Please pray the technology cooperates.

WHEN GOD CROSSES OUR PATHS

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by COVID-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways—both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Every year, members of Thrivent Financial have the opportunity to apply for two grants of \$250 each which can be used to assist in a service activity. We know of four members of our congregation who have this privilege. We have used these grants in the past to increase the profits from shoofly sales, our festival, yard-shares, etc., profits which were then donated to non-profit causes like the food bank and the school district. The key to these grants is that the money must be used *in conjunction with* people being involved with the activity.

While Stewardship initially made plans for how to use these monies, the pandemic brought these to a halt. Now, however, we find ourselves with six unused grants, monies that must be tapped by the end of the year. Note, we need to submit names of participants to Thrivent so we can meet the requirements for them to be able to release the funds.

So, and we know it's a rush to get all this in place, here are our plans to make sure these funds are put to good use:

1) Supplement food to the Brandywine Food Pantry. Since members already donate, we can count them as participants. So, if you donate something, let us know your name – you can leave it with the items you bring or call or email it to us. You only need to identify yourself once and you don't need to say what it is you brought. Once we get the grant, we'll buy another \$250 worth of items.

2) Supplement Thanksgiving Boxes. Here, again, this is something to which members already contribute. Needed items are listed below. These can be brought to the church when we have services or contact the office to arrange for a time to deliver them. Again, please let us know your name so that we can submit it as a contributor. **All items must be in by November 1.**

3) Gifts for Children through Friend, Inc. If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact the church office by October 15. Once we have the age and description of the children, we will contact you. This grant is already approved, so the \$250 will be used to buy gifts for additional children. **Deadline for bringing gifts to the building is mid-November.**

4) Seafarers International Christmas at Sea Satchels. And, again, we are already making hats

and cowls and scarves. These are added to satchels for seafarers, each of which is worth about \$25, so the grant could fill 10. There is a list below of what goes into the satchels, so those who want to, can add other items for the satchels. Again, tell us your name if you contribute. **Items needed by Dec. 1.**

5) Clean up buckets for disaster response. We did this a few years ago. We already have some 5-gallon buckets at church. There's a list below of what goes in. Members can simply bring in items and tell us their name. We will also offer the opportunity to contribute to other churches in the area. The \$250 grant can fill in what we don't get. Each bucket is worth approximately \$75, so a grant would fill 3. Again, tell us your name.

6) Kutztown University Lutheran Center Food Pantry. This group provides free food, clothes and personal necessities to university students. Trinity Lutheran Church, Kutztown, is our liaison to the center. When you donate items, please indicate they are for The Lutheran Center and tell us your name so we can submit it. We'll start collecting these after Thanksgiving. We will use the grant to supplement these donations.

Sounds like a lot all at once, and it is, but even small contributions to each cause counts so we can use the grants. With the new year, Stewardship will spread out use of the next grants.

(Just to let you know, come Advent we will again sponsor the ELCA Good Gifts program and tree. This is not eligible for a Thrivent grant, so it is not listed above.)

If you have any Thrivent products and access to grants and we haven't asked you, or if you know of someone who does, please let us know. If you would like to help with the Stewardship Committee, just tell one of us.

The Stewardship Committee: Tara Basta, Betty Eshbach, Josh Keck, Ken Keck, Ty Rissmiller, and Pastor Ruth

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you for your donation of food to the Brandywine Food Pantry. We appreciate your community support! – Sincerely, The Brandywine Food Pantry

“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you're doing the impossible.”

—Unknown

THANKSGIVING BOXES FOR FRIEND, INC.

Here's what is needed for each Thanksgiving Dinner Box:

Holiday napkins

1 – lg. can fruit cocktail

1 – can or bottle of juice

1 – box stuffing mix

1 – box instant potatoes

2 – cans vegetables (different kinds)

2 – cans cranberry sauce

1 – lg. jar applesauce

1 – lg. can sweet potatoes

1 – container coffee or hot chocolate

1 – pack cookies

Donations should be delivered to church by November 1st.

ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS AT SEA – SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL

Seafarers are essential workers. They transport the goods we need and our exports. Many are on the sea for long periods without a break, often not seeing family or friends for 10 months at a time. Seafarers International is a mission begun and run by Lutherans. Here's what goes into a gift satchel.

Imagine you were alone on a major holiday like Christmas, Ramadan, Thanksgiving or Hanukkah. Depressing. This is why we invite you and your congregation to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas. Our port chaplains bring satchels filled with gifts to the ships for the holiday. Every crew member on a ship regardless of their faith or nationality will open their satchels, each containing:

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

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. And, **please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size.**

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers ashore have taken the time to share the spirit of Christmas with these otherwise forgotten seafarers! **Items due December 1st.**

CLEAN-UP BUCKETS

It seems we hear about disasters constantly. This means there is a continual need for clean-up buckets for survivors. Warehouses that stockpile these are reporting that they are critically low, if not empty.

Imagine what it would mean to you if your dwelling and community were trashed and someone brought you a clean-up bucket. It would be worth more than its contents. It would tell you that someone cares. It would speak of hope.

Here's what's needed for a clean-up bucket:

- One five-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid – no screw lids – may be used but free of residual product. Advertisement on outside okay.
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner – no spray cleaners
- One 16-34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air fresheners (or 3 solid or 3 gel)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (or pack of 10-20 wipes) pump spray must have protective covers
- One scrub brush – with or without handle
- One 18 reusable cleaning wipes – no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels, remove from packaging
- Five scouring pads – no stainless steel or pads with soap – remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothes pins – place in plastic re-sealable bag
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic)
- 24 roll of heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gal. sizes)
- 5 N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thick) no surgical masks
- 2 pairs kitchen gloves – durable
- One pair work gloves (cotton with leather palms or all leather)

BIBLE QUIZ

In Jesus' parable about people who hear and live by God's words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks

NEWS & EVENTS

in our Community

FOOD SALE! BIG EXCITING NEWS! FOOD SALE!

Longswamp United Church of Christ, Mertztown, is holding a BIG EXCITING FOOD SALE. An order form is included at the end of this newsletter. Additional order forms can be found at Radcliffe's Great Value Store in Mertztown, the Mertztown Post Office, on Longswamp UCC's website or Facebook page. At Radcliffe's and the Mertztown Post Office there are folders with blank order forms and a folder to place your filled-out order forms. If you prefer to order food from home, you may email your food order to chris@longswampucc.org.

- ▶ Orders are due on October 31. Drive-thru pickup and pay day is on November 14, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at Longswamp UCC, 200 Clay Road, Mertztown.

Please wear your mask! Any questions, call Ann at 610.417.1373. Proceeds will benefit members of our community.

IRON KETTLE SOUP SALE

Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, and the Kutztown FOE will be selling beef vegetable soup and chicken corn noodle soup on **Saturday, October 10, 2020**. **Pick up time is from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Hope.** Cost is \$7.00/quart. To pre-order, contact Renee Muth at 484.646.9082 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and amounts you would like.

HELP REPLACE THE LUTHERAN HOME AT TOPTON'S CARILLON

To replace the chimes and related mechanisms, gifts totaling \$15,000 are needed. The home is inviting interested individuals, residents, families and church congregations to partner with them to restore the Carillon to its joyful chorus. Any and all gifts will help support this project (no gift is too small). Gifts may honor a special occasion or may memorialize a loved one.

For more information, please contact Tipton resident and volunteer Marlane Druckenmiller at teaconn@gmail.com or 610.641.1245 or Diakon Director of Development, Lisa Titus at TitusL@diakon.org or 610.952.5444.

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

(updated as of September 10, 2020)

In the light of concerns about increased food needs in response to COVID-19 and possible challenges of delivering items to the food bank – please consider a generous monetary donation. We will keep you posted with info. from the food pantry. You can make out a check to “Brandywine Food Pantry,” and mail it to Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 122 W. Franklin St., Tipton, PA, 19562.

Donated Items in “much” need right now: coffee, fruit juices, sugar, pancake syrup, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, Hamburger Helper, beef stew, Chicken-ala-King, canned meat (such as tuna, chicken breast or Spam), Manwich or sloppy joe mix, Chef Boyardee style canned items (such as beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), instant potatoes, pasta or rice sides, snacks of all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), shampoo, bar soap, body wash, and laundry detergent.

We do not currently need: corn, green beans, mixed vegetables, or tomato soup.

The pantry is always in need of the following items:

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

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

Canned goods: diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, chili

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

Drinks: hot or cold tea, water

Extra: peanut butter, marshmallow fluff, jelly

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

Baking items: cake or brownie mix, frosting

Breakfast food: oatmeal, pop tarts, cereal bars

Paper products: tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

Personal care items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes

Cleaning and disinfectant products: dish soap and laundry detergent

Gluten-free and sugar-free food is also greatly appreciated.

Please check dates on donated food products.

MINISTRY IN THE FACE OF COVID-19: WHAT PASTORAL MINISTRY LOOKS LIKE AT THE LUTHERAN HOME

Chaplain Colleen Kristula is always a very busy lady. I've worked with her in providing services and bible studies at The Lutheran Home. But I can only begin to imagine what it has been like for her since March. Here is her report to the recent East Berks Mission District assembly. Please give thanks to God for the ministry she and her office provide and pray for her health and well-being.

On March 12, 2020, everything changed. That was the day that The Lutheran Home at Topton closed its doors to visitors in order to protect our residents from the COVID-19 virus.

In an instant, most of the tasks I undertake as their Chaplain fell away. BC (Before COVID), in any given week, I would lead four worship services, three Bible studies, and visit new residents for spiritual assessment, in addition to multiple interdisciplinary meetings. Social distancing has wreaked havoc with the rhythms of the week.

In the blink of an eye, the role of the chaplain became "connecting." Families outside were worried about their loved ones; residents lonely, some also confused by the absence of their regular visits. A primary task arose: coordinating with Activities to offer "virtual" calls. I never thought I would be thanking God for such things as Facetime, Skype, and Zoom. But these amazing technologies allowed us to connect residents and their families to be face-to-face if not physically present, to connect with words and smiles and tears and blown kisses. In some weeks, making over 60 such calls.

Better than any sermon I have ever preached, the love of God was displayed in the words: "I have your family on the picture phone today." Spirits lifted. And for me as their chaplain, bonds forged even with those residents who had never set foot in any of those worship services and Bible studies offered.

Connecting also meant countless phone calls to families to keep them informed of the status of COVID in our facility; working with our office staff to establish and maintain an email list for notification, and an update phone line for families to call. And on those calls, hearing their anger, frustration, despair and the underlying fear that their loved one might die apart from them, reassuring them of our continued care for them all. Accompanying the families of those who were dying for one last visit with that loved one, the strange juxtaposition of offering prayer alongside instruction on how to use PPEs.

Connecting happened with staff through daily broadcast prayers, posted devotionals, a new prayer request box, and "checking in" on their spirits at the screening table—taking spiritual temperatures while recording actual temperatures. Encouraging our leadership in the down moments as we offered prayer

for residents who had passed. Providing a memorial video and remembrance station on the units for nursing staff to honor their grief. Pointing to the everyday successes of residents recovering. Connecting staff to their own spirits, the reason they went into this caring field in the first place. Connecting them to the Source of all energy and healing in the midst of overwhelming and exhausting days.

An unexpected connection arose out of our desire to continue to offer worship and Bible study even though residents were staying in their rooms and group activities were limited. We are grateful to local churches; Maiden Creek Church, Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading, as well as the Neuman Center at KU, whose worship services are broadcast to room TVs throughout the week. In-house, we have been recording a series of jeopardy-style Bible quiz shows with Rev. Jeremiah Sassaman, St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown as one of our weekly contestants. We invited congregants from local churches to participate in the creation of an upcoming Family Feud, Bible style.

In recent weeks we have begun a soft opening with thirty-minute outside, distanced, no-touch visits between families and residents. It has been six months since they have seen their families in person! We are conscious, with COVID rates rising again, that it may be only a window of time until we close again. Please pray for us, and encourage everyone you know to wear masks, wash hands, and maintain social distance. What you do on the outside profoundly affects our residents' health, both physical and spiritual/emotional.

What the future will hold is still unknown, but hasn't it always been so? What we can count on is that we always remain connected to God—that is God's purpose and promise to us. I can think of no better time to make that connection real for those I serve.

Finally, the Carillon in Old Main is no longer repairable, but we are already past the half-way mark to its replacement cost of \$15,000. Its hourly hymns are a community heritage and a boost to the spirits of all who hear it. Donations would be gratefully accepted by our Advancement Office.

Rev. Dr. Colleen G. Kristula, The Lutheran Home at Topton

DIAKON *Many Hands. One Heart.*

SHARE YOUR HARVEST, IF YOU ARE ABLE

John the Baptist went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.... And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." – Luke 3:4, 10-11

God's people have traditionally given thanks and celebrated God's abundance at harvest time, when farmers close out their growing season. In 2020, North Americans once again rejoice that our land has produced plenty of food. And many Americans, blessed with stable jobs and rebounding investments, can give thanks for a harvest of financial and personal blessings as well.

But millions of us and our neighbors are struggling. COVID-19 has caused massive joblessness, pushing countless families into poverty. Hunger and homelessness are skyrocketing. Federal, state and local safety-net programs are breaking, and food banks, shelters and other charities are overwhelmed.

The rising need presents an opportunity for God's people who are blessed with more than enough to help siblings in need. This year, consider celebrating your harvest of blessings not only by giving thanks but also by donating generously – of your time, talent, money or goods – to a local food bank, homeless shelter, soup kitchen or charity. Our congregations could lead this effort with a campaign, "Harvest of Giving."

Our hurting, struggling neighbors need to know not only that COVID-related misfortune is not their fault, but also that God and God's people are standing with them, supporting them with love and help. The best way is for those who are blessed with an abundant harvest to share it with those whose harvests are lean.

—Rob Blezard

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- 5 Richard Boyer
- 12 Leon Moyer
- 14 Marlowe Greis
- 19 Gladys Kline
- 20 Phyllis Fenstermacher
- 20 Tina Howell
- 20 Blane Musser
- 23 Joanne Pauley
- 24 George DeLong
- 27 Luann Bennecoff
- 31 Daniel Pauley



- 1 Craig and Lynne Lounsbury (26 years)
- 12 Jason and Elizabeth Keller (7 years)
- 13 Denny and Sara Jane Beshore (47 years)
- 27 Jarrett and Amy Hahn (2 years)

MASKS AVAILABLE

In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has distributed packs of face masks to non-profit organizations. These come in packs of 5 and can be washed up to 15 times.



Though the fabric touching skin is 100% cotton, the lining contains silver and copper, which could possibly cause skin irritation, so it is important to read the instructions on the outside of the package.

If you are in need of additional masks or know of someone who is, please contact the church office. Our thanks to DHS for providing these for us.


 IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers


**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

August 31, 2020

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 19,339.26
Thrivent	8,013.93
Checking	5,008.40
Youth	406.45
Fidelity	95,364.89
Cash Reserve	19,551.58
Mission Investment	11,523.06
Local Care	2,021.43
Total:	<u>\$ 161,229.00</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **August 31, 2019** \$ 187,642.93

August 2020 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income Required	Actual Income	Difference
Income			
Used For:	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,565.00	\$ 4,876.28	\$ (4,688.72)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2020
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

Parking Lot – Funds received to offset expenses
for Driveway/Parking Lot Repaving
\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Parking Lot
Project
\$ 32,283.52 Funds Received to Offset Expenses

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Leon Moyer, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, George DeLong, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Penny Keller, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, Gary and Vikie Seyfert.

Friends of the congregation: Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Anne Cunningham, Mark Derr, Lee Dice, Randy Dreibelbis, Jennifer Engle, Nicole F., Eric Fox, Harry Geidner, Jason Grof, Mamie Guinther, Denise Haage, Family and friends of Stephen Haage, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Edna Kramer, Cayden Kresge, Mary Kring, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Doris Meadway, Rodney Miller, Johnathan Naugle, Family and friends of Frankie O’Neill, Ruth Ramsey, Phil Sheetz, Patricia Sigfried, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; our citizens as they prepare to vote; an end to the many ways prejudice and systemic racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world; areas enduring disaster; and migrants and refugees.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, David Jenkins, Sue Kearney, Anh La, Michelle Meck, Nancy Meck, Joanne Pauley, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Roger Schollenberger, Donna Schwoyer, The Spatz Family, and Leah Wiest.



ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER MORE EXCITING TO READ WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND.

SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.

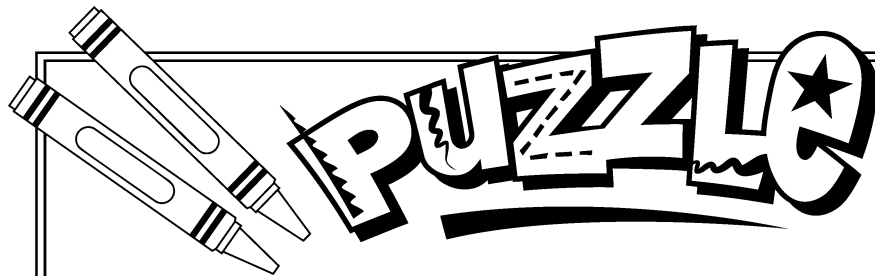


What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.



A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
3. To plant _____
4. Sharp part of a plant _____
5. What is harvested. _____
6. To dry up and shrivel _____
7. Person who plants _____
8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

“But the _____₂ falling on good _____₈ refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____₅, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____₃ n.”

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 2 3 , N I V

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, crop, sow

FOOD SALE! *BIG EXCITING NEWS!!!* FOOD SALE!

Our **BIG EXCITING NEWS** begins in **SEPTEMBER** as soon as your Longswamp UCC Newsletter arrives, or you go to **Radcliffes Great Value Store** or the **Mertztown Post Office**, or you go right inside the front doors of **Longswamp Church** to the bulletin board or in the church bell room to the bulletin board, and as soon as you see our **NEWS on the Longswamp UCC website or on FACEBOOK!**

Each of these 7 places has a copy of an order blank for our FOOD SALE so you can decide what food(s) you would like to order! At Radcliffes, the Mertztown Post Office, and the 2 church bulletin boards there are folders with more order blanks and an order blank folder to put your filled out order blank into. If you prefer to order food(s) from home, you may use any order blank and decide what you'd like to order and email what you'd like to order to chris@longswampucc.org. She will fill out an order blank for you so that we have a record of your order.

***ORDERS ARE DUE ON OCTOBER 31st, HALLOWEEN DAY!**

***DRIVE THRU PICK UP AND PAY DAY IS ON NOVEMBER 14th, 11AM - 2:00 PM!**

200 CLAY ROAD, MERTZTOWN, PA 19539 PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK!

QUESTIONS? Call Ann @ 610-417-1373 *PROCEEDS GO TO OUR COMMUNITY*

YOUR NAME _____ YOUR PHONE _____

FOOD SALE at LONGSWAMP UCC TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

Indicate how many of each item you would like to order by placing the number you would like on the line in front of the item. DRIVE THRU PICK UP AND PAY FOR YOUR ORDER DAY will be on Saturday, November 14th (Please wear your mask) at our front church door from 11:00am-2:00pm. Questions? Call Ann @ 610-417-1373.....Stay well and stay safe!

	<u>Price</u>		<u>Price</u>
___(qt.) Turkey Corn Noodle Soup	\$8.50	___(1) Apple Dumplings	\$4.00
___(pt.) Turkey Corn Noodle Soup	\$5.00	___(1) Linzer Tortes 6 raspberry & 6 apricot	\$5.00
___(qt.) Beef Vegetable Soup	\$8.50	___(1) Pumpkin Rolls	\$5.00
___(pt.) Beef Vegetable Soup	\$5.00	___(1/2 doz.) Black Bottom Cupcakes	\$3.00
___(qt.) Chow Chow	\$8.00	w/cream cheese	
___(pt.) Chow Chow	\$5.00	___(2 doz.) Nut Tassies	\$6.00
___(qt.) Pickled Red Beets	\$7.00	___(2 doz.) Chocolate Chip Cookies	\$5.00
___(pt.) Pickled Red Beets	\$4.00	___(2 doz.) Cut-Out Cookies	\$6.00
		___(2 doz.) Peanut Butter Cookies	\$5.00

ORDERS ARE DUE ON OCTOBER 31st, HALLOWEEN DAY!

TO ORDER, EMAIL ORDERS to chris@longswampucc.org

PROCEEDS GO to OUR COMMUNITY!

**NEW JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
INSTRUCTIONS FOR “COMMUNING ON THE LOT”**

(revised 9/16/2020)

- 1) Everyone who attends must be in a car as they enter the lot.
- 2) As you approach, there will be provisions for you, from the driver’s side, to:
 - a) receive a bulletin and the elements for communion
 - b) present an offering
 - c) deposit donations for the food bank

The pre-packaged elements for communion will be in a sealed baggie. Take as many as needed for those in your car. The elements are gluten-free and the drink is juice, not wine.
- 3) Once all the elements are inside the car, please do not open the bag until you are instructed to do so by Pastor Ruth.
- 4) You will be directed to a parking space.
- 5) We have a loud speaker system which should be able to be heard by everyone. If you are wearing a mask and have brought a lawn chair, you may set it up in the designated area. Otherwise, please remain in your car throughout the service.
- 6) The order of service will be brief.
- 7) Pastor Ruth will be located outside the scout cabin. Following a brief liturgy, she will bless the elements followed by the Lord’s Prayer. Then she will direct you to open your bags and distribute the elements to everyone in your car.
- 8) Once each person has their wafer and grape juice in hand, Pastor will instruct you to *carefully* unseal the wafer and eat it. She will then instruct you to unseal the grape juice and drink it, thereby eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ as our Lord commanded.
- 9) Please place your empty cups back in the baggie and take it home to discard.
- 10) After the Dismissal, you are free to leave. If you are wearing a mask and maintain a 6-foot distance from others, you may get out of your car to greet one another. If you feel safer waiting in your car with your window shut, you may wait for others to walk by and greet you.
- 11) Please note: Bathroom facilities will be available inside the entrance to the church located at the top of the ramp. Please only enter and exit this way and do not go into any other area of the church. Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter and exit.

OCTOBER GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY OF NEW JERUSALEM

Due to the current pandemic, it has been a long time since we gathered for worship in our sanctuary. While many of us have missed being in the space that is very sacred to us and have longed to be among our brothers and sisters, we have refrained for the sake of protecting the health of our brothers and sisters. We are also thankful that some of us have had the options to worship together via Zoom and/or to celebrate communion by gathering on the parking lot.

We grieve that not everyone will be able to or will feel safe to gather in the sanctuary. For those who *do* wish to enter, we have set the following guidelines:

- 1) If, within the past 14 days, you have tested positive or been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms or are feeling ill in any way, stay home.
- 2) Masks are to be worn by everyone entering the building and to remain on until they depart. Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations. Worshippers are asked to bring their own masks. However, a few will be available if someone does not have one. If you are not able to wear a mask due to health concerns, we ask that for your sake and the sake of others you do not come to worship in the sanctuary.
- 3) At all times, a distance of at least 6 feet from people other than family members is to be observed.
- 4) Everyone is to enter and exit using the door at the top of the ramp. This way no one will need the elevator and we can keep that area of the building sanitized.
- 5) Bulletins for each person to pick up and an offering basket will be located on the shelves in the entrance way. We also plan to mail out bulletins ahead of time, so, if you can remember, please bring the one you have been mailed. That way we will not need to print as many.
- 6) Seats that respect social distancing have been designated. Some are designated so that family members may sit together. Please only sit in the designated seats.
- 7) When entering the building, those who enter first are to proceed to the front seats. Others who enter will fill in seats immediately behind those who are seated. While these may not be the seats you normally sit in, we ask you to follow this guideline for the sake of everyone present.
- 8) When the service is over, those who are seated in the back are to exit first and go directly to the parking lot.
- 9) If you wish to visit with others in the parking lot, please continue to wear your mask and observe the appropriate distance from one another.
- 10) Only one person at a time is to use the bathroom, unless a family member is needed to give assistance to someone. When unoccupied, the door to the bathroom is to remain open. Please close the door when you enter and leave it open when you exit.

The services that are being planned will be shorter than normal, probably lasting about 30 minutes. This has been recommended in order to reduce exposure time.

Members of Worship and Music Committee, Congregation Council and others have been working hard to enable those who desire to re-enter the sacred space of our sanctuary. They are also aware that plans will need to be adapted to changing conditions. We pray that the current arrangements will allow those who choose to attend an opportunity for meaningful worship of the God who never forsakes us and refuses to be confined.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Growing Young in a Changing World: Virtual Summit



Have you watched again and again as youth leave your church after they have affirmed their baptism?

Or maybe you have youth who only attend youth group and are not part of the larger congregation?

Does your congregation have a large age gap missing of people in their 20s and even 30s?

If you see any of the above as problems that the church needs to address, **then this event is for you!** It is also for as many folks as you can bring along with you.

The Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team is thrilled to welcome everyone in our synod to a two-day Virtual Summit titled "Growing Young in a Changing World."

Dozens of youth leaders in our synod have already reaped some of the benefits from a book called *Growing Young*. On November 10th and 11th, one of the authors of that book, Jake Mulder from the Fuller Youth Institute, will be working with our synod specifically to help us be more welcoming and engaging to the youth

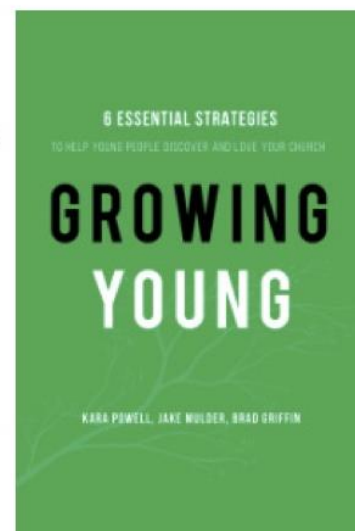
and young people in our midst. **ALL synod church staff, rostered ministers and members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.**

We will meet digitally in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday, November 10th and the morning of Wednesday, November 11th, with an optional afternoon session that day.

It is strongly encouraged that you read *Growing Young* prior to attending. You can purchase the book at <https://shop.fulleryouthinstitute.org/products/growing-young>.

Please note: Throughout this event, you will spend time in break out groups with others from either your congregation or mission district as we develop action plans to carry our teachings forward. Therefore, it will be helpful if you know in advance if others from your congregation or a partnering congregation are attending.

Please email sammy@nepsynod.org with questions and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/growing-young-in-a-changing-world-virtual-summit-tickets-117650278149>.



Assembly 2020 - A New Way of Being Church Together

Friday evening, October 16 & Sunday afternoon, October 18

Friday evening, October 23 & Saturday morning and afternoon, October 24

Watch the Assembly Online

Registration for voting members closes on October 1. However, even if you didn't register as a voting member, you can still watch all the proceedings, including the election of a new bishop. The entire assembly will be broadcast live and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. For "visitors" - those who simply wish to watch the proceedings - unlike past years, there is no need to register.

The information you need to watch the Assembly will be posted on the synod website (nepasynod.org).



ELCA "Stories of Faith in Action"

Stories are the foundation of our faith. They teach us how to serve God with humility. They remind us of our identity as God's beloved children. They bring us together and give us hope for the future. Given the challenges of 2020, we need stories of hope and unity more than ever before. That's where your 2020-2021 edition of "Stories of Faith in Action" comes in.

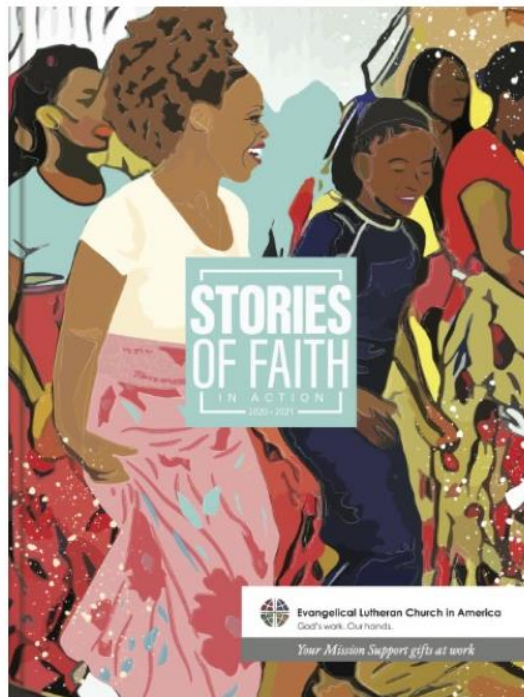
This annual publication illustrates how God is at work across the ELCA through your generosity. It highlights how a portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church - particularly the ways the ELCA nurtures vital congregations, raises up leaders and grows the global church. Most importantly, it's one way we say thank you for your faithful generosity to your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization - by showing your offering at work.

The latest edition is now available digitally and includes:

- A special message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
- Nine inspiring stories from around the country and world.
- Your 2019 financial report on Mission Support - the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod and your synod shares with the churchwide organization.
- A story-based devotional for use at Bible studies or committee meetings.

Visit the ELCA website at <https://www.elca.org/sofia> where you can either download a printable version or view it as a "Flip Book."

[This article is taken from an email authored by Victoria Flood, Director, ELCA Mission Support and Nick Kiger, Associate Director, ELCA Mission Support.]



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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

OCTOBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Pastor Ruth on vacation until Thursday, October 8	2	3
4 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in the Sanctuary World Communion Sunday	5	6	7	8 10:00am- ColoringGroup	9	10 11:30am-2:00pm-Hope Lutheran Church Iron Kettle Soup Sale Pickup
11 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	12 11:00am-Bible Study 7:00pm-Council Meeting Columbus Day (observed)	13	14	15	16 Synod Assembly	17 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot -Blessing for the Animals (Rain date: Sunday, October 18, 5:00pm)
18 20 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in the Sanctuary Synod Assembly Newsletter Deadline	19 11:00am-Bible Study	20	21	22	23 Synod Assembly	24 Synod Assembly
25 Reformation Sunday 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	26 11:00am-Bible Study	27	28	29	30	31 Longswamp UCC Food Sale Orders Due Reformation Day