

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

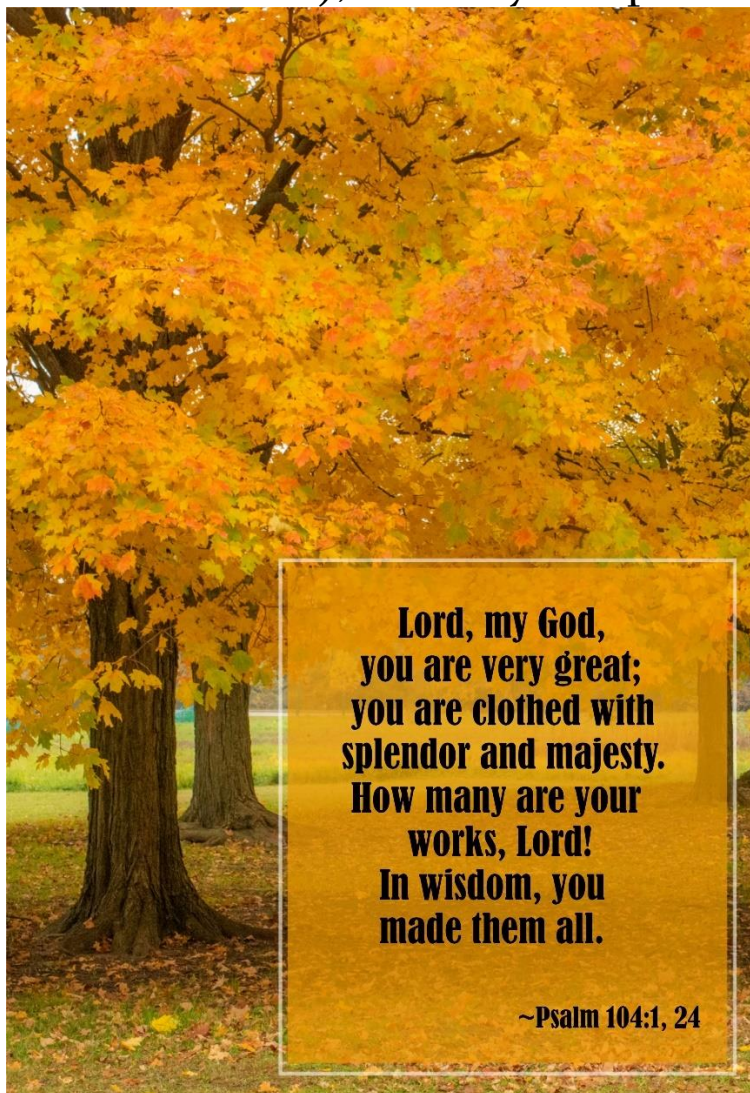
E-MAIL: njelchurch@windstream.net

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

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

SECRETARY HOURS:

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

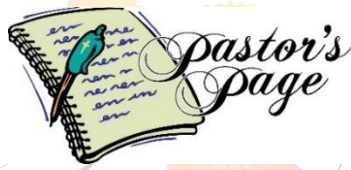


**Lord, my God,
you are very great;
you are clothed with
splendor and majesty.
How many are your
works, Lord!
In wisdom, you
made them all.**

~Psalm 104:1, 24

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.*



LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.
How many are your works, LORD!

In wisdom you made them all. — Psalm 104:1, 24

Dear Beloved Partners in God's Family,

Colors – even in times of diminished rain, some of the leaves on our trees are displaying their colors, colors we don't see during spring and summer. Colors. Vibrant colors. Reds and yellows and oranges. Colors we see only in fall because something is missing in the leaves. Something is absent. The leaves have stopped producing something.

The green color of leaves is, of course, determined by a pigment called chlorophyll, which helps plants absorb light and turn it into energy. Chlorophyll absorbs all colors of light except green, so leaves appear green because they reflect that color back to our eyes. As the temperature decreases, chlorophyll breaks down. As a result, other pigments are revealed: carotenoids (yellowish orange), anthocyanins (red or purple), tannins (brown), melanins (black). The result: We see these other colors, vibrant colors, colors that can be seen only in fall. Colors that can cause us to stop, look, breathe in, and say, "Wow!" "Wow, Lord! You *are* clothed with splendor and majesty. How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all."

Being able to see or experience something because something else is absent. Now *that's* an interesting concept!

We humans grieve changes in our lives, especially those caused by the absence of something or someone familiar and even loved. Never doubt that grieving is important. However, just as we may grieve the coming of fall because it means a change from the carefreeness of summer, we also rejoice in renewed focus on the tasks of everyday life and new learnings, so it is with changes in our congregation and the larger church. Because things are not continuing the way they did in the "good old" days we remember with crowded pews, large Sunday Schools, active youth groups, etc., we are being allowed, even pushed, to notice things and people we would normally not "see" and to examine more closely at what it means to be church, what it means to be the people of God in this time and this place. Perhaps in this process we can learn something from the falling leaves, the beautiful, vibrant, falling leaves created by God in God's wisdom.

One of the things I learned in researching why leaves change their color is that buds form at the place where the leaves attach to the trees. So, if the leaves stayed on the trees, then winter ice and snow would be snap off the leaves and the buds would be harmed. (Many of us remember how snowstorms before the leaves fell actually broke the branches off the trees.) So, the fact that the leaves fall off before winter, actually ensures the survival of the buds, ensures "resurrection" in the spring. In the same way, when some things fall away from our lives, that can ensure room for the new to come.

Of course, we could take that analogy too far. We do *not* rejoice that there are fewer people who come to worship with us. We miss those who were with us, continue to pray for and be concerned about them, and seek and welcome whatever contact we have with them. We do *not* rejoice that diminished finances and ability of members to take leadership positions means we have become more limited in what we can do. We rethink what God would have us do to participate in building God's kingdom with the resources we have. Why? Because we trust that the God of wisdom and resurrection is with us. We trust that the same Spirit who brought about the birth of Christ and the birth of the church is active within and among us and our world. And we pray that that same Spirit will help us to see others and our world with minds that are curious and creative and with hearts that are open wide, so that we will be able to perceive and participate in the beauty and hope that surround us.

As the seasons change, take some time to savor some "wow" experiences. Psalm 104 may help you join me in words of praise.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were covered at our Council Meeting on Monday, September 12th:

- Council members discussed Chapter 4 of "I Am a Church Member."
- A discussion took place of our upcoming meeting with the council members of Trinity, Tipton and made plans to meet with council members of other congregations in the Brandywine Heights area.
- Actions we can take in preparation to discern and prepare for our future were considered.
- Decided to dedicate the new scout shed to the memory of John and Patricia Keck. Funds from their estate have paid for the shed and landscaping.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, October 10, 7:00 p.m.**

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will resume on **Monday, October 3, at 11:00 a.m.** New participants welcome. Tell Pastor Ruth if you're interested.

COLORING GROUP

The next meeting is **Thursday, October 6, 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 Tipton. Meetings take place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month through May 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. Long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, good walking shoes, and bring a hiking stick are suggested. 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, Tipton.

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, October 15**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton.

CHOIR REHEARSAL meets on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. We could always use more voices to help sing the Lord's praises. Please consider joining us.

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the September newsletter is **Sunday, October 16**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH

Congregations of the Brandywine Ministerium are developing a new team focused on Ministries with Youth. At their first meeting on September 13th, members brainstormed possible activities for the next several months. Watch for more specific plans in the coming weeks.

This team is not meant to replace any individual youth group a congregation might have. Rather its goal is to provide opportunities for youth to engage in activities that are more fun and meaningful when done with more participants. This is especially important since most of our churches do not have large numbers of youth.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st BREAKFAST FOR MEMBERS OF LYONS FIRE COMPANY - 8:00-10:00 AM

Please join members of New Jerusalem as we welcome the Lyons Fire Company for breakfast. This is a great opportunity to get to know and show appreciation to those who work so hard to keep our community safe and are there for us in time of need. All are welcome.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th – CAMPFIRE WITH THE SCOUTS, DEDICATION OF THE NEW SHED, AND COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

Speaking of getting together and enjoying a meal together, our annual fall campfire with the scouts will take place **Saturday evening, October 15, from 3:00-9:00 p.m.** This is your chance to roast hot dogs, get sticky with ‘s’mores, and just enjoy being together on a crisp fall evening. In addition, we will hold our last Communion on the Parking Lot for the season at 5:00 p.m. and will show off the new storage shed purchased for the scouts through a generous gift from the family of John and Patricia Keck.



SAVE THE DATE: STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 20th

Not only is November 20th Christ the King Sunday, our congregation will also observe this day as the time 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. Please be sure to join us. Remember, 25 voting members are needed for a quorum.

DISCERNING OUR FUTURE – JOINT COUNCIL MEETINGS

As part of the process of discerning our future, council members from New Jerusalem and Trinity, Topton, met together over supper on Monday, September 19, as a way to get to know one another and learn about the ministries, opportunities, and challenges each congregation faces. Our council members look forward to doing the same with councils from other area churches.

WORSHIP AT THE LUTHERAN HOME

Join Pastor Ruth and Phyllis Fenstermacher as they lead worship for residents of the Lutheran Home Sunday afternoon, **October 9th at 2:30.** This is a great way to share faith and support for our brothers and sisters who are residents there. The gospel lesson for that day will be the healing of the 10 lepers. Pastor Ruth is working on how to make the message and service as engaging as possible, so share any ideas you might have. In order to protect the vulnerable, all present will be required to wear a mask.

OUR CONFIRMANDS HAVE BEEN BUSY

Creation, the Fall, the Flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses, Joshua, Judges, Kings and prophets. In just 9 weeks, Logan and Carson Seip have worked this far through the Old Testament, learning about God’s creative love, great patience and faithfulness as God dealt with colorful and imperfect folks not unlike us. Now it’s on to learning about the end of the kingdoms, exile, and faithful people who showed great bravery as we continue through the greatest story. When you have a chance, ask our guys which, so far, is their favorite story.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Breakfast for Firefighters, New Jerusalem, Saturday, October 1, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
- Campfire with the Boy Scouts, New Jerusalem, Saturday, October 15, 3:00-9:00 p.m.
- Dedication of Restored Bells, Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, Saturday, November 5
- Game Night and Potluck Supper (*postponed until a later date*)

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>

Praise the LORD, my soul.
LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

OCTOBER

WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS

Altar Flower Sponsors:

October 2 – *sponsor needed*

October 9 – Dale Schwoyer

October 16 – Gladys Kline

October 23 – *sponsor needed*

October 30 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors:

October 2 – Rodney and Diane Keller

October 9 – *sponsor needed*

October 16 – Korinne Hotzman

October 23 – *sponsor needed*

October 30 – *sponsor needed*

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:

Gladys Kline

Children's Bulletin Sponsor:

sponsor needed

Altar Guild Volunteer(s):

volunteer needed

Communion Bread Sponsor:

October 2 – *sponsor needed*

October 30 – *sponsor needed*

Communion Set-up Volunteer:

October 2 – *volunteer needed*

October 30 – *volunteer needed*

Readers for August:

October 2 – Kenneth Keck

October 9 –

October 16 –

October 23 –

October 30 –

Councilperson for the Month:

Diane Keller



We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Bertha Bennecoff who passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2022. A funeral service was held on September 20 at Ludwick's Funeral Home, Kutztown, with Pastor Ruth Doty officiating. She was buried in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown. Please keep Bertha's family in your thoughts and prayers.



- 5 Richard Boyer
- 14 Marlowe Greis
- 15 Samuel Marks
- 19 Gladys Kline
- 20 Phyllis Fenstermacher
- 20 Tina Howell
- 20 Blane Musser
- 27 Luann Bennecoff



- 1 Craig and Lynne Lounsbury (28 years)
- 12 Jason and Elizabeth Keller (9 years)
- 13 Denny and Sara Jane Beshore (49 years)
- 27 Jarrett and Amy Hahn (4 years)

² The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent
³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.
He makes the clouds his chariot
and rides on the wings of the wind.
⁴ He makes winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.
⁵ He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.
⁶ You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

—Psalm 104

"Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God."

—attributed to Ronald Reagan

A NEW MINISTRY IN OUR AREA

Mark your calendar!

On **Sunday, October 2, 2022**, St. Paul's UCC, 47 South Whiteoak Street, Kutztown will host the first Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County worship service. The worship service will begin at 3:00 p.m. and last about one hour.

Why Rejoicing Spirits? 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!

We are reaching out to you for support with this new ministry. Volunteers are critical to the success of this ministry. We are looking for volunteers who desire to spread God's love and Word! Your help would be greatly appreciated to greet and welcome Rejoicers and their families, help them get a name tag, accompany them into the fellowship hall, plan simple snacks and activities, participate in the worship, and help clean up. Volunteer sheets are available at church or can be emailed to you.

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

For more information, click here: https://webmail.windstream.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=74692&part=3

For the volunteer form: https://webmail.windstream.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=74692&part=2

Thank you

Dear members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you very, very much for your generous donation of food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries to the Brandywine Food Pantry. We appreciate your support. Sincerely, *The Brandywine Food Pantry*

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY

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.



⁷ But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;

⁸ they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,
to the place you assigned for them.

⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.

¹⁰ He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.

¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.

¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

FAITH IN ACTION: QUILTS – LOTS OF QUILTS

As the cooler weather approaches our “Threads for Others” participants are getting ready to schedule time to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). These quilts go all over the world to provide warmth and even shelter. Here’s a story about one avid quilter.

Audrey Fisher grew up on a farm in Western Washington. She remembers always having an abundance of blueberries. “My father planted those once, 75 years ago. There’s not a lot of things that you plant once that produce for so long.”

You could say the same thing about Audrey. In her many decades of life — she celebrated 90 years this past June — she has produced more than 18,000 LWR Mission Quilts. In fact, she has been supporting neighbors in need through Lutheran World Relief since our founding in 1945. When her pastor learned about a new organization making bandages to send to those harmed in World War II, he asked his congregation for support. Audrey’s mother encouraged her to help because she had such good sewing skills.

Audrey began sewing at just 6 years old. She hasn’t stopped since. “It’s in my blood,” she said.

In 1979, she became the leader of her quilt group at First Lutheran Church in Bothell, Washington, a suburb of Seattle near where she moved after she married. The size of the group and numbers of quilts sewn have ebbed and flowed over the years. One



year, in the early 1990s, they made nearly 700 quilts, which is still their annual record.

The group hosts quilt-a-thons when they need help in meeting their goal, bringing in other church members. After the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the need for quilts was so great that Audrey held a special

quilt-a-thon to make sure her church could meet the demand.

Quilting can be intimidating, especially for newbies who aren’t familiar with the more complicated methods. So, Audrey keeps the patterns and stitches simple and does a lot of prep for those who join the group.

While she’s currently one of ten quilters at the church, as the group lead, her hands touch every single quilt. She cuts the backs and tops and makes holy sheets to make it easier for quilters, who then take the parts home and sew them together.

After all these years, Audrey has her system down pat — and so many friends that lend their support. A friend at her church created a compression machine using car jacks, pipes and wood, allowing the group to flatten the quilts for better packing. And Audrey has a bit of a ritual herself for her quilts. “Some people think it’s crazy,” she said, “but I like to talk to them. I wonder where you’re going, I wonder who’s going to get you. When I’m quilting, I’m not worrying about the problems of the world. I’m talking to my quilts and I’m talking to God. That’s my relaxation. And I just really enjoy doing it.”

Audrey likes thinking about how many people around the world have felt comforted and loved by her quilts. “Sewing is a talent that God gave me at an early age. And he tells us we are supposed to help other people. I’m giving warmth to a family somewhere, even if I don’t know where. It’s what I do.”

—Written by Niki Clark, July 28, 2022

¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:

¹⁵ wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ There the birds make their nests;
the stork has its home in the junipers.

¹⁸ The high mountains belong to the wild goats;
the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.

¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.

²⁰ You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

²¹ The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.

²² The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.

²³ Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.

—Psalm 104

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PAY LESS FOR INTERNET ACCESS OR EVEN GET IT FREE

Internet access is necessary for work, school, healthcare, and more. Unfortunately, high speed internet remains unaffordable for too many



households. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) runs a program, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), that reduces the cost of getting online for people with limited income. Many internet providers offer

fully covered internet plans—meaning you may even get high-speed internet for free.

If your household income is 200% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines or someone in your household participates in certain government assistance programs, you may be eligible for the benefits the ACP provides. Visit the [ACP website](#) to see if you qualify. You can take advantage of the discounts with confidence knowing that receiving ACP assistance does not affect your Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability benefits.

What discounts are available?

- \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. [Some companies](#) offer internet service for \$30, making internet service free.
- Eligible households also can receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 toward purchasing a laptop, desktop computer, or table from participating providers.

How do you get the discounts?

You can apply online with the [FCC](#), directly contacting your current internet service provider, or by mail. You can also call 1-877-384-2575 to find out how to apply.

See the [list](#) of the internet companies offering service for \$30.

TRUE HEROES

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

—Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and “hero” of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*

2022 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

8/19/2022 8:35:00 AM

Chicago —The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly met August 8-12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Gathering under the theme "Embody the Word." The assembly worshiped together in services of eucharist and lament, experienced a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and heard a public apology in a non-legislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and this church.

Key actions were taken by the assembly included:

- Elected Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
- Directed the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church.
- Directed an external audit of the governing documents of the ELCA to consider diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- Authorized revisions to the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*.
- Encouraged members, congregations and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include the return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- Approved the budget proposal for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,869,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Reaffirmed the commitment of this church to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of a 50% reduction of net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY (CR BERKS)



Shawn Rohrbach and his wife, Erin, are starting a new ministry at Redeemer Bible Fellowship Church in Topton called Celebrate Recovery. Meetings are held on **Friday nights at 7:00 p.m.** in the Pioneer Grange Hall, 46 E. Keller Street, Topton.

Celebrate Recovery 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 or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CRBerks>.

²⁴ How many are your works, LORD!

In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.

²⁶ There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

²⁷ All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.

²⁸ When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.

—Psalm 104

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, Friends and family of Bertha Bennecoff, 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, Rosemary Drey, John Drumheller, Jennifer Engle, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, DeeDee K., Debra Kenny, Taz Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Tom Levan, Julia Lombardo, Joe M., Rodney Miller, Family and friends of Amy (Christman) Moyer, 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-Agirir Family, Mary Kring, Ella Loose, Michelle Meck, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Tierney Schmeer, Donna Schwoyer, Leah Wiest, Gabby, and Meaghan.

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

August 31, 2022

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 20,265.92
Thrivent	9,612.24
Checking	2,410.16
Youth	408.64
Fidelity	50,321.20
Cash Reserve	34,419.63
Mission Investment Fund	11,647.31
Local Care	<u>2,390.31</u>

Total: \$ 131,475.41

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **August 31, 2021** \$ 151,979.42

August 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	\$ 4,662.00	(\$ 5,229.25)

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

³⁰ When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works —
³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.
³⁵ But may sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

—Psalm 104, NIV

CULTIVATING OUR LIFE’S HARVEST

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” —**John 10:10**

Fall harvest provides a wonderful analogy for how, as stewards of our lives, we are responsible for making the most of our time on earth.

Farmers plant, water, fertilize and harvest, but they do not actually create the life that produces crops. Life comes only from God. Farmers only manage and optimize the properties and processes of life that God engineered into their plants.

Smart farmers know what soil is best, what fertilizer, and how much water to give each particular plant. By nurturing their plants with care and attention, farmers generate the best and most productive harvests.

So it is with us! God created and engineered us to thrive! Our task is to manage and optimize our lives so that we can experience the abundant life that Jesus talks about in John 10:10. We have the rich soil of family, friends and church community relationships. We have the water of God’s Word, love, forgiveness, salvation and grace. We have the fertilizer of wholesome, nourishing food.

How can we cultivate our lives? We can:

- Water our faith through prayer, worship, scripture, generosity, love and service.
- Tend the soil of relationships by loving our families, neighbors and church community.
- Optimize our physical health by eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep.
- Nourish our intelligence and wisdom through education, reading, exploring and continually learning.

Farmers reap plentiful harvests by caring for plants in ways that God ordained would provide the best growth. By caring for ourselves in ways that God designed for us, we can enjoy that life abundant that Jesus promises.

--Rob Blezard

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On The Way

*With Bishop Christopher deForest
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA*

ON THE WAY...

Issue 8 | August 29, 2022

And our CWA VOTING MEMBERS of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

REFLECTIONS ON CWA 2022

I have to confess, going into our ELCA Churchwide Assembly, I was anxious. As 850 Lutheran Voting Members, along with hundreds of non-voting visitors and guests, gathered in Columbus from August 8-12, rumors were rampant about actions and motions that would lead the Assembly into chaos and contention.

While there were certainly moments of conflict, discomfort, and confusion – mostly, I was surprised how much work got done, and how many different voices got to express themselves and move our church forward into real transformation. Bottom line: I was surprised to return home, feeling so hopeful.

First and foremost, from my perspective, was the election of Imran Siddiqui as the next Vice President of the ELCA – the highest office held by a lay person in our church. The voting proceeded by ecclesiastical ballot, the same process we use to elect bishops – and I was impressed by the qualifications and the faith stories of all of the top seven candidates. When it got to the last round, all of the final three were younger persons of color. Our new VP is from the Southeastern Synod, lives in Atlanta, and grew up as a Muslim. He became a Lutheran in 2011, after interactions with some Lutheran folks and a connection he felt with our emphasis on God's grace. The ELCA Vice President's position is a volunteer role; the VP chairs the Churchwide Council and works closely with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, but also provides a different perspective and is expected to be independent from the churchwide office. I appreciate that Mr. Siddiqui has also served as a synod vice president; and he brings strong experience from his "day job" as a senior investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor. [Click here](#) to find out more about our new ELCA Vice President.

VP Siddiqui was just one of many newer and younger voices who made themselves heard at this CWA. A lot of the anxiety about this event came from the fear that young people were going to move us into radical change, and didn't care if they disrupted or even destroyed the institution and the constitution of the church while they were at it. What actually happened was, that they moved us forward by showing up, fulfilling their roles as voting members, and working within the constitutional systems and norms. They came prepared to work, they made their motions, they brought forward debate on memorials and resolutions, they made their cases, and they accepted the decisions and compromises that the Assembly made, together. Now, I hope they will hold us all accountable to what we decided, and what God calls us to do.

Big change is ahead. But Christ, as our head and cornerstone, is leading the way and grounding us in the best of our identity and our history, as followers of Jesus, and as reformers and transformers like Martin Luther, and Martin Luther King Jr. I am thankful and in awe of the five days I spent in this work – especially with our AWESOME Voting Members from NEPA Synod (SEE PHOTO BELOW). Those Voting Members are making plans now to get around our synod and share what they learned and did – as well as helping us to bring that work to life here in NE PA. For more information on all the work that was done at CWA, [click here](#).

On the Way of Jesus together,
Bishop Christopher deForest



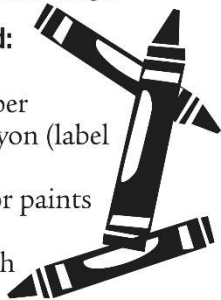
Picture of Voting Members in attendance at 2022 Churchwide Assembly (from left): Mr. Jeffrey Gilbert, Ms. Mary Rowe, Rev. Samantha Drennan, Mr. Christopher Williams, Rev. Nelson Quinones, Mr. Roger Ruggles, Rev. Susan Ruggles, Ms. Ashley Teter, Ms. Sara Neidig, Mr. Thomas Engle, Rev. Rachael Dietz (with her service dog, Chipotle), Rev. Charles Grube, Ms. Madison DeLuca, Ms. Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mr. Mark Stana, Mr. James Marra, Ms. Nancy Reichelt, Rev. Bradley Carroll, Bishop Christopher deForest, Mr. Beau deForest, Mr. Alvin Sellers, Ms. Kristen Edelman-Weiner, and Rev. Rebecca Knox.



Create some invisible art and then reveal the seasonal design.

What you need:

- Leaves
- White paper
- White crayon (label removed)
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Gather leaves of different shapes and sizes. On a table, arrange them flat without overlaps. Set the paper over them.
2. Hold the crayon sideways and use the long edge to color over the leaves. You'll make an invisible rubbing of them.
3. Then paint over the paper with watercolors. The areas with crayon will resist the paint and reveal the hidden leaf designs.



God's character is evident through what he made.

Directions: Hold up the puzzle to a mirror. Then write the backward words correctly to complete Romans 1:20, NIV.

FOR SINCE THE NOITAEHC OF THE WORLD

 ETERNAL SH — SEITILAUQ INVISIBLE S'DOG

 POWER AND EIVID NATURE — HAVE BEEN

 YJRAEJC SEEN, BEING DOOTSRDNU FROM

 WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT ELPEOPLE ARE

 WITHOUT EXCUSE. 2IAMOR 1:20, NIV

Answer: creation, invisible, eternal, divine, clearly, understood, people, Romans

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

What's happening in NEPA Synod? X

Bishop Conference 2022...

Synod Assembly 2023...

Going Beyond...

Stronger Together...

Growing Young...

Learning Ministries Day 23...

http://



Visit Godslove.org
for up-to-date
happenings
around the synod



*Synod
Assembly*

**GO BEYOND
WITH US
IN-PERSON!!**

**KALAHARI
POCONOS**

JUNE
1-3
2023

WORSHIP
Play

CONNECT
Lead



*The Northeastern Pennsylvania
Synod Presents:*



**BISHOP'S
CONFERENCE**

2022

Featuring



November 14 & 15

Americus Hotel
555 Hamilton St
Allentown, PA



* 2023 Update on Portico Health Rates & Plan Changes

ELCA-Primary health contribution baseline rate will increase 3%, the same rate increase as last year, which was the lowest in eight years.

The 3% increase also applies to sponsored members receiving the ELCA Medicare-Primary health benefit Standard option. ELCA-Primary Gold+ option deductibles will increase to \$1,500 for member only, \$2,250 for member and child(ren) and \$3,000 for member and spouse or member, spouse, and child(ren). Coinsurance, out-of-pocket limits and prescription drug cost-share will not change.



* Prepare for 2023 Annual Enrollment

As you prepare to make selections in October, keep these things in mind: Sponsoring employers (congregations and organizations) will select the option they will offer their employees Oct. 3-14. Your registered EmployerLink user can access the 2023 Decision Guide and their Custom Comparison Report to help determine 2023 costs and options. Note: any organization that does not make a selection will be assigned Silver+ (A) to offer their plan members the ability to choose the coverage that works best for them. Sponsored members, watch for an email from Portico with specific information about 2023 Annual Enrollment, including when your selection period will be open.



Save the Date!

OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00-10:00am- Breakfast with Lyons Firefighters
2 <u>17th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion 3:00pm-Rejoicing Spirits, St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown	3 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	4 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	5 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	6 10:00am-Coloring Group 10:30am-Walking/Hiking Group	7 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	8 10:00-12:00pm-Faith Formation Session
9 <u>18th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship ▪ Fellowship after worship 2:30pm-Worship at the Lutheran Home, Diebert Hall	10 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY	11 10:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	12 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	13 9:30-11:00am- Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton 10:30am-Walking/Hiking Group	14 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	15 8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Topton 3:00-9:00pm-Campfire with Scouts
16 <u>19th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	18 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	19 12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	20 10:30am-Walking/Hiking Group	21 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	22
23 <u>20th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship ▪ Fellowship after worship	24 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	25 5:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	26 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	27 9:30-11:00am- Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton 10:30am-Walking/Hiking Group	28 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	29
30 <u>Reformation Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion	31 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.					