

**THE GOOD NEWSLETTER**

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

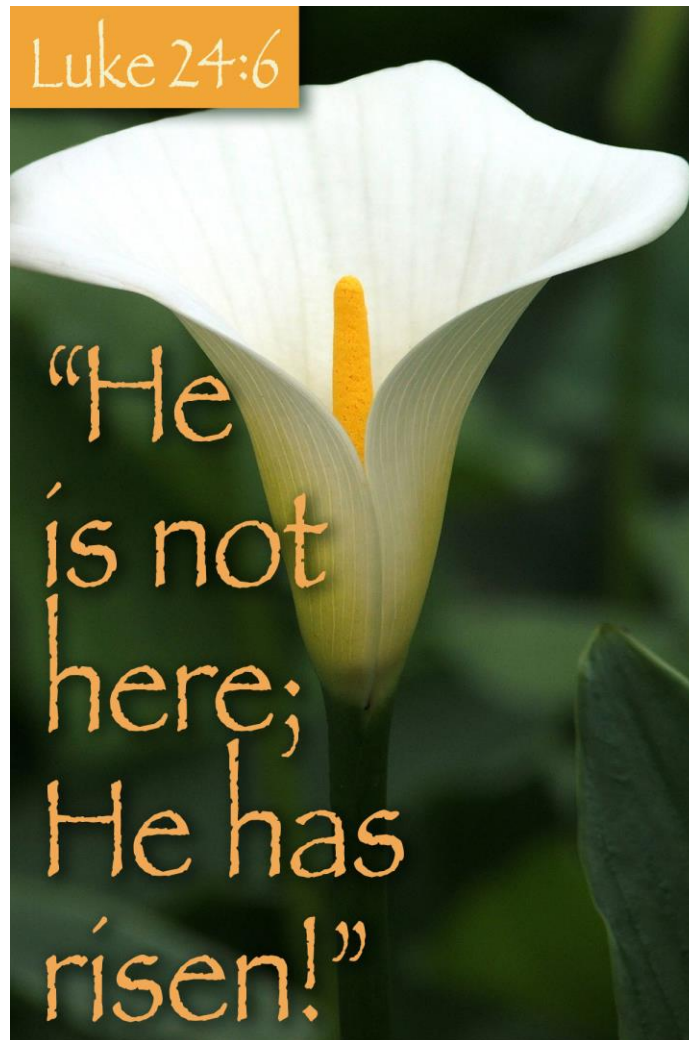
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Church Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon



**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.*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Spring is a new beginning. So is Easter.

*Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many day has lain.*

How we welcome the emerging plants, wondering which ones made it through this very cold and snowy winter, and trying to remember where we planted those bulbs and perennials last year! Even though the snow was beautiful, it was beginning to seem like it would never go away and that this time of renewal would never get here.

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never rise again.*

When Jesus' disciples laid his body in the tomb, they mourned. They mourned deeply. They had pinned their hopes and dreams and very lives on him. They thought they had understood what he was about, but now they thought they would never see him again. How many of us have buried loved ones? How many of us have deeply mourned loves, hopes, dreams and what seemed to be our lives that suddenly seemed to be gone forever?

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never rise again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen.*

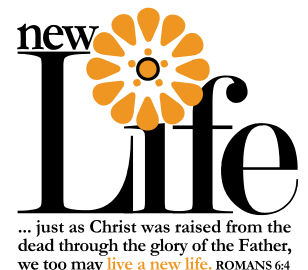
Like grain that sleeps unseen. Like grain and bulbs and seeds and plants that sleep unseen. Loved ones and hopes and dreams and lives that are now unseen but being prepared to enter our world once again. Spring breathes the promise of a new beginning! And so does Easter!

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for three days in the grave had lain, Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen. Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Spring is a new beginning! So is Easter! So is the baptism of Annabell Keller which we will celebrate on April 12<sup>th</sup>! And so is the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of our first church building which we will celebrate on April 19<sup>th</sup>! (Anniversaries don't just celebrate the past, and the present, they push us to see signs of life around us now and move us into the future.)

So many signs of God's faithfulness! So many opportunities for renewal! Join us as we celebrate God's many gifts and opportunities for new life in Christ!

*Pastor Ruth*





## WORSHIP & MUSIC INFORMATION

**APRIL SIGN-UP SHEETS** – We are in need of a Communion Set-up volunteer for April 5. Thank you to everyone who signed up.

**OUR CONDOLENCES** to the family and friends of Erma A. (Deysher) Noll who passed away on March 3, 2015.

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Sunday, April 5 – Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 12 – Baptism of Annabell Keller

Sunday, April 19 – Anniversary Celebration

Service (original laying of the cornerstone)

- Bishop Zeiser will be preaching
- Luncheon and fellowship following worship

### **"TABLE BLESSINGS AND MEALTIME**

**PRAYERS"** – Do you or your family members say any special prayers at mealtime? If you do, we would like to include a collection of these prayers in the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook that is being prepared. Prayers can be submitted to Dawn Wengert at [dmw121069@dejazzd.com](mailto:dmw121069@dejazzd.com), mailed to the church office or emailed to the church office at [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net).



### **April 1 – Holy Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. – Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers

Topic: The Prodigal Son

Pastor Jim Dunn will be preaching

### **April 2 – Maundy Thursday**

11:00 a.m. – Christ (Mertz) Lutheran, Dryville

2:30 p.m. – Lutheran Home at Topton

7:00 p.m. – Christ (Mertz) Lutheran, Dryville

### **April 3 – Good Friday**

2:00 p.m. – New Jerusalem Lutheran

2:30 p.m. – Lutheran Home at Topton

7:00 p.m. – New Jerusalem Lutheran

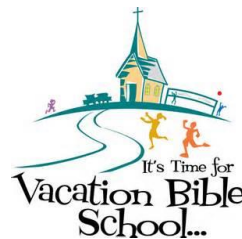


**CHRIST (MERTZ) CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER** presents *A Night with the Stars*. A benefit event featuring a silent art auction of student/staff works of art and student/staff talent show. Held on Friday, April 10, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tickets: \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children under the age of 15. Tickets will be available at the door. To reserve tickets in advance, call 610-682-6381, ext. 222 or email [mikearndt@aol.com](mailto:mikearndt@aol.com).

**LOAVES AND FISHES** group is sponsoring a free Spaghetti Dinner to be held on Tuesday, April 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 121 S. Home Avenue, Topton. Salad, bread, and desserts will also be served. Everyone is welcome!

### **RAJAH SHRINE CHANTERS CONCERT -**

Join us on Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Kutztown High School auditorium for an enjoyable afternoon of inspirational and patriotic music. The musical theme for this year is "Passin' the Faith Along." Tickets are \$15.00 and will be available at the door the day of the concert.



Are you ready for Vacation Bible School? Christ (Mertz) Lutheran Church, Dryville, will be hosting VBS Monday through Friday, July 13-17, 2015, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. New Jerusalem and Hope,

Bowers are co-sponsoring. The theme this year is Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power. If you are interested in attending, registration forms will be available soon. If you would like to volunteer to help or are interested in providing donations for crafts, food, etc. please see Cindy Rissmiller or Dawn Wengert. The next VBS planning meeting will be held on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Christ (Mertz).



**LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY**

**RESCHEDULED** - April 18<sup>th</sup> is the new date for the synod Learning Ministries Day event to be held at Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville, 8:30-3:00. Additional information is available on the bulletin board. Please let Pastor Ruth know **ASAP** if you are interested in attending and which workshops you want. Last day to register will be Easter.

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CHICKEN POT PIE**

**DINNER** will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children 6-12, and free and children 5 and under.



**UPDATED SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE SALES** – The following is an update to the schedule that was in last months’

newsletter. The shoo-fly pie bakes will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5-6, June 2-3, September 29-30, and November 3-4. The cost is \$5.00 per pie.

**RELAY FOR LIFE** – The Relay for Life Team is having a Raffle Drawing at Relay for Life in Kutztown on May 30<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of raffle prizes. It can be something you made, a gift certificate, or an item you bought somewhere. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Deadline for signing up is Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Prizes are not needed until about May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, *Cheryl Wiltrout*

**CAMP NOAH** – To find out more about this exciting and rewarding ministry by Lutheran Congregational Services, see the attachment at the end of this newsletter.

Our Anniversary committee is looking forward to all of us celebrating the anniversary of the laying of the 1840 Cornerstone. We hope you will be able to join us to reminisce and have fun celebrating. Also to be able to look forward to what God has in store for us here at our New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, for the years ahead.

In researching our history, it is amazing how our ministry has changed. From being a four church parish to having a Pastor for just our church. We will be displaying some of this history memorabilia. We have been asking for photos. Thank you to the members who gave us some to share. If you have any other memorabilia from your baptism, confirmation, etc. and want to share/display it on the 19<sup>th</sup>, get them to any committee member by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Members who were not baptized, etc. at this church and want to share their items, please feel free to let us know. All items will be returned to you.

The theme for our anniversary year is: “175 Years...This Far by Faith...Still on the Journey.” By now everyone should have received their letter of invitation and an RSVP card. If you have not yet returned your card, please do so ASAP.

Remember the date — April 19, 2015 at 10:00 AM.

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee: Sara Jane Beshore, Erma Gajewski, Cindy Rissmiller, Linda Moyer, Susan Schlenker, Dale Schwoyer, Dawn Wengert, Cheryl Wiltrout, and Pastor Ruth

DID YOU KNOW?????????????????

The 1840 Church cost \$2,156.53. By December 26, 1840, the debt was reduced to \$877.39.

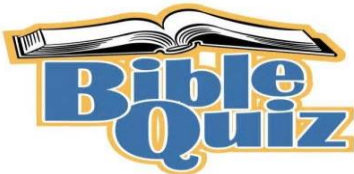
**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
Statement of Accounts  
February 28, 2015**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 28,019.30
Thrivent	5,936.94
Checking	5,903.02
Youth	966.19
Fidelity	174,033.81
Cash Reserve	24,500.13
Endowment CD	11,153.82

**February 2015 — ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’**  
**Income**

	<u>Income</u>		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Delta</u>
Operating Expenses	\$8,440.42	\$4,697.26	(\$3,743.16)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2015 Budget  
Passed by Congregation*



According to St. Matthew’s gospel, something unusual happened to the earth on the Friday when Jesus was crucified. The same thing happened again when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb on the following Sunday. What happened on those two days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

If you need help, Matthew 27:51 recounts Friday’s events, while Matthew 28:2 reports on Sunday’s occurrences.

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

**Easter isn’t over**

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, “All this work and it’ll all be over so soon.” Sorry, but they’re wrong.

Easter as a celebration of the return of spring, the Easter of the Easter Bunny and colored eggs and candy, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over by Easter Monday, not to come around again until next year.

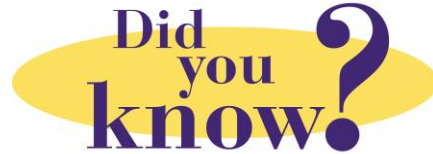
But the true Easter, the celebration of Christ’s resurrection, is never over. Easter is the reminder and the



celebration of a continuing fact: Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow and forever. Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now.

Easter isn’t over ... ever!

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



**LADDER**

A ladder is sometimes pictured with a sponge at the end of a long stick, reminiscent of the soldier offering Jesus vinegar to drink on the cross (Matthew 27:48). Thus, a ladder may symbolize Christ’s Passion. In the Old Testament, Jacob dreamed of angels ascending and descending a ladder (or staircase, depending on the Bible version) set up between earth and heaven (Genesis 28:12). Both accounts show that through Jesus, our Savior, we—like the angels—have ready access to God, now and for eternity!



-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



## GROWING IN THE SPIRIT – PRAYER COMMITTEE

Welcome to Spring!!

That groundhog was right! After weeks and weeks of cold and snow, spring has finally arrived!

Just as spring follows winter, the 40 days of Lent lead us to Easter. We wait impatiently for the “Risen Christ”.

But first we need to travel with Jesus through: the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal, the trial and crucifixion. Only after traveling through the dark days can we appreciate the “JOY of Easter”.



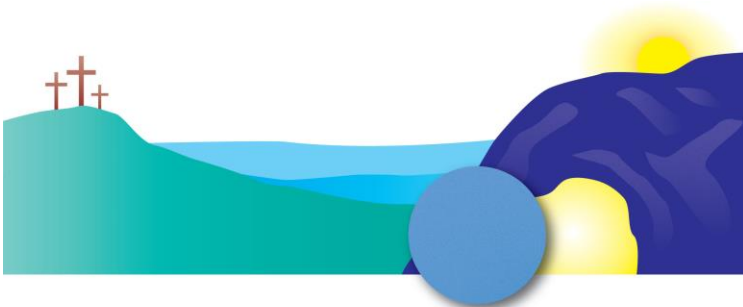
Mark 14:32-34

Our own dark days help us to honestly enjoy the new life that comes with the Easter season. God knows our hearts and minds. He understands the lows and highs we live through. By His grace He has given us the ultimate gift, bought and paid for by His Son: ETERNAL LIFE!

May we come into His Presence with Thanksgiving in our hearts as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

He Lives! Happy Easter!

-The Prayer Committee



## PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS:

**PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care Facilities:** Dallas and Anna Angstadt, Cliff Barlet, Samuel Behm, Bertha Bennecoff, Jean Deysher, Karl Fenstermacher, Paul and Shirley Hertzog, Drena Kocher, Myrtle Merkel, Irene Noll, Mildred Reinert, Warren Reinhart, Joyce Rothermel, Betty Stoudt, and Arlene Yob.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Members:** Ted Eshbach, Erma Guinther, Amanda Herman, and Dale Schwoyer.

**Friends of the congregation:** Jolyn Blankenbiller, Shirley Diaz, Olivia Fenstermacher, Marilyn Franzi, Corinne Hersh, Leah K. and Lisa K., Lauren Kinney, Lananh Rissmiller, Russell Roeder, Andrew S., Jerry Schwambach, Tom Spraut, Jack Stoudt, Marlene Wike, Frances Walter, Cindy Wilt, and Carl Wuchter.

**OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:** For all our military personnel serving around the world, those affected by the Ebola outbreak, and for peace in the world, especially the Middle East and the Ukraine.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Baby Adelene, Evelyn Collins, Ralph Harris, Mae Hertzog, Sheila Long, Linda Moyer, Josh S., Theresa S., and Karen W.



Thank you!

Thank you for all the card and prayers. Hope to be in church in the Spring. Thinking of all of you. Call or visit any time. – Jean Deysher



**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
RELAY FOR LIFE -  
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY  
May 29 and 30, 2015**

Time to relay is coming fast. What is RELAY? Relay for Life brings together more than 3.5 million people to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communities to fight back against this disease and to raise much needed funds for awareness and research.

We again have the following to raise money for the American Cancer Society: PURPLE SIGNS—\$50.00 – Signs “Decorate the Town Purple” (Kutztown). The signs can be purchased: in MEMORY, to remember a loved one who lost the battle; SURVIVOR, to honor anyone diagnosed with cancer; SPONSOR, anyone supporting and joining the fight against cancer. The signs are displayed in Kutztown for 2 weeks prior to May 29 and 30, and taken down during the week after relay.

LUMINARIES—\$10.00 – When the sun goes down on Friday evening of the relay – luminaries light the way under the stars as a moment of silence falls during a moving ceremony of remembrance. Luminaries are glowing bags that appear to be simply paper sacks filled with a weight and candles, but EVERY BAG REPRESENTS A LIFE THAT BATTLED CANCER. These can also be purchased to honor someone.

Our team will be holding a raffle at our Relay campsite during relay. Anyone wishing to donate something for the raffle, sign the sheet in the Narthex by April 5, or let Cheryl Wiltrout know by April 5. You don't need to have the prize in by that date, but Cheryl needs to know what will be on the raffle in order to print the tickets.

There are registration forms, Purple Sign forms, and other items on the table in the Narthex. You can ask any relayer, or call me at 610-468-9322 for information about the relay

or how you can support the American Cancer Society.

Our goal is to have a world with LESS CANCER and MORE BIRTHDAYS—Help us “FINISH THE FIGHT”.

Your fellow relayer, *Erma*

Website for ACS, Kutztown University Relay is: [www.relayforlife.org/pakutztown](http://www.relayforlife.org/pakutztown)

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### **Four Lessons of Good Friday**

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (HarperOne), writes that Jesus' suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21<sup>st</sup>-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that:

1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn't always the result of [one's own] sin;
3. Jesus was fully human – and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn't the last word.

“The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter,” Martin writes. “The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It's the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father's will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life.”



-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

## Passover

On the last night before his crucifixion, Jesus shared what was called a Passover meal with his disciples. The origin of Passover is recorded in Exodus, Chapters 11-13.

It is the story of God's passing over the homes of the Jews enslaved in Egypt when death came to Egyptian homes. The night the "Passover" was to occur, the Jews were instructed to eat roasted lamb and unleavened bread. That was part of the menu Jews ate, and still eat today, on the night of Passover.

Passover is also related in part to the Jews' escape from Egypt as they passed through the Red Sea.

The lamb served at the Passover meal came to be called the "Paschal Lamb." St. Paul picked up on that with these words to the church at Corinth: "Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7, NRSV). Peter also wrote: "You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways...with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish (1 Peter 1:18-19, NRSV).



Christ became the perfect sacrifice so that animals no longer needed to be sacrificed to bring about reconciliation with God. (See Hebrews, Chapter 10.)

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



- 2 Richard Sheetz
- 5 Sara Jane Beshore
- 5 Myrtle Merkel
- 5 Justin Rahn
- 7 Barbara Seyler
- 11 Dallas Angstadt
- 14 Samuel Behm
- 17 Harold Seyler
- 18 Jayna Howell
- 19 Erma Guinther
- 21 Annabell Keller
- 23 Brooke Adams
- 28 Amy Broussard
- 29 Rebecca Keller
- 29 Daniel Moyer
- 30 Dallas Bennecoff
- 30 Richard Carl



- 9 Jason and Tina Howell (4 years)
- 17 Richard and Lori Boyer (33 years)
- 24 Randy and Tammy Cleaver (6 years)
- 29 Karl and Phyllis Fenstermacher (54 years)

***If your name or the name of someone you know didn't appear on this list, we apologize and hope you will let us know so we can make the necessary corrections. Thank you.***



## **THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **April**

1	7:00 PM	Holy Wednesday - Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers
2		<u>Maundy Thursday</u> – Holy Communion (P)
	11:00 AM	Christ (Mertz) Lutheran Church, Dryville
	2:30 PM	Lutheran Home at Topton
	7:00 PM	Christ (Mertz) Lutheran Church, Dryville
3		<u>Good Friday</u>
	2:00 PM	New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
	2:30 PM	Lutheran Home at Topton
	7:00 PM	New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
5	10:00 AM	Resurrection of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
*12	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Easter (W)
		▪ 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service - Original Laying of the Cornerstone
		▪ Bishop Zeiser preaching
		▪ Luncheon and fellowship in the basement Social Hall
*26	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Easter (W)

### **May**

3	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday of Easter – Holy Communion (W)
◆10	10:00 AM	Sixth Sunday of Easter (W)
		▪ Mother's Day (breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.)
17	10:00 AM	Seventh Sunday of Easter (W)
		▪ Church Music Sunday
*24	10:00 AM	Day of Pentecost – Holy Communion (R)
31	10:00 AM	The Holy Trinity – Holy Communion (W)

### **June**

* 7	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Communion (G)
14	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after Pentecost (G)
◆21	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (G)
		▪ Father's Day (breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.)
28	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (G)

#### FELLOWSHIP DATES:

- ( \* ) Fellowship after worship  
 ( ◆ ) Breakfast before worship





Create a simple yet powerful Easter display.

**What you need:**

- 3 wood blocks (small, medium, large)
- Acrylic paint (three pastel colors and white)
- Paintbrush
- Water
- Paper towels
- Letter stencils and tape (optional)

**What you do:**

1. Paint each block of wood a different pastel color. (You can paint the whole block or just one side.)
2. When paint is dry, use white paint to write (or stencil) "He" on the smallest block, "is" on the medium block and "risen!" on the large block.
3. When blocks are dry, stack them from largest to smallest to proclaim "He is risen!"



## OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

**Directions:** Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- |                  |                  |                |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 who was Raised | 8 Right hand     | 6 To life      |
| 3 diEd           | 4 moRe than that | 7 Is at the    |
| 2 JeSus who      | 11 intErceding   | 9 Of God       |
| 12 for Us        | 1 Christ         | 10 aNd is also |

.....

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_

11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RESURRECTION

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

## APRIL SERVICE ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETERS	READERS	ALTAR CANDLES	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
4/5	Dorothy Turner	Cindy Rissmiller	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Gladys Kline	Cheryl Wiltrout
4/12	Elaine Seip	Roy Merkel	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Daniel & Joanne Pauley	Gladys Kline
4/19 Bulletins Front Door Social Hall	<u>Anniversary Celebration</u> Dan & Sheila Gehman Linda Moyer <i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Ty Rissmiller	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Elaine Seip	Elaine Seip
4/26	Lucille Jones	Sara Jane Beshore	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Phyllis & Karl Fenstermacher	Sponsored

**ALTAR GUILD:** Cheryl Wiltrout and Gladys Kline

**CHILDREN'S BULLETINS:** Gladys Kline

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** The Gehman family




**COMMUNION BREAD:** 4/5 – Ted and Betty Eshbach

**COMMUNION SET-UP:** 4/5 – *(volunteer needed)*

**COUNCIL PERSON:** Sheila Gehman, 610-730-3304

**COST: Flowers - \$35.00; Bulletins - \$7.00; Children's Bulletins - \$5.00; Sanctuary Candle - \$15.00**

# APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <u>Holy Wednesday</u> 7:00pm-Christ DeLong UCC	2 9:00am-Worship & Music Committee Meeting <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 11:00am-Christ Mertz 2:30pm-Lutheran Home at Topton 7:00pm-Christ Mertz	3 <u>Good Friday</u> 2:00pm-New Jerusalem Lutheran 2:30pm-Lutheran Home at Topton 7:00pm-New Jerusalem Lutheran	4
5 Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday ▪ Holy Communion 	6	7 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	8	9	10 7:00-9:00pm-Christ (Mertz) Church Children's Center silent auction/talent show	11
12 Second Sunday of Easter ▪ Baptism of Annabell Keller ▪ Fellowship	13 7:00pm-Finance Committee Mtg.	14 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	15 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon	16 6:30pm-VBS Meeting at Christ (Mertz), Dryville	17	18 8:30am-3:00pm- Learning Ministries Day – "Vibrant Faith Through Life", Hope Lutheran, Cherryville
19 Third Sunday of Easter ▪ 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service (luncheon to follow service) 2:00pm-Rajah Shrine Chanters Concert, Kutztown High School Auditorium	20 7:00pm-Council Mtg. 	21 5:30-7:00pm-Loaves and Fishes Free Community Meal, Trinity Lutheran, Topton 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	22	23	24	25 4:00-7:00pm-AYCE Chicken Pot Pie Dinner 
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter ▪ Fellowship	27	28 6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir	29	30		



## Help Bring Camp Noah to Children in Maryland

Join Pastor Ruth in setting up two Camp Noah ministries in Crisfield and Princess Anne, Maryland, July 25-31. Volunteers, fleece blankets, Kids Kits and funds are needed to bring this specially designed day camp program to at least 85 children who were impacted when Hurricane Sandy devastated the area. People who volunteer with Camp Noah report feeling privileged to see God's Spirit actively changing lives and feeling that they have received at least as much as those they served among. To learn more and to help in any way, see the bulletin board or speak to Pastor Ruth.

### Who, What, Where, etc.

Camp Noah is specifically designed for children in first through 6th grade. These camps provide a safe, fun atmosphere for children to tell their stories, grieve their losses, build resiliency skills and find hope for the future. The curriculum taps into and supplements the unique ways children process and heal from trauma. As a result young survivors feel less isolated, express and accept their many difficult feelings, develop new friends, identify support systems, relax and enjoy themselves. Camp Noah can provide children and families with a foundation from which they can move forward in defining and accepting what will become their "new normal".

A total of 50 volunteers are needed to staff the two camps. These volunteers can include up to 10 mature 16-18 year olds. Much like for a VBS, volunteer teams bring the skills and energy needed to provide fun, compassion, attentive listening and support for children and families who have been through the trauma of a disaster and the difficulties of recovery. Team members need to possess the heart, skills, and maturity to effectively work with children. Once assigned to a team, members are trained and then work together to divide up the responsibilities and prepare for the camp. Since children are vulnerable and they are to be not only respected but also protected, all staff and volunteers working with Camp Noah must complete an individual application process, have positive references and pass a child abuse clearance process. Anticipated registration fee is \$125, with assistance available for those who cannot afford that.

Team members will travel to Crisfield on Saturday, July 25. On Sunday they will worship in local congregations and then set up the sites where the camps will be held. Housing and most meals will be provided for the volunteers. Funds are available to assist with transportation.

### More info about Camp Noah

The Camp Noah program was developed and is administered by Lutheran Social Service, Minnesota (LSS Minnesota). Since 2006 Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS) has been partnering with LSS Minnesota to provide teams of volunteers and funds to deliver the program where needed across the nation. LCS teams have traveled outside eastern Pennsylvania 12 times. In 2011 and 2012 LCS hosted and staffed camps in its home territory in response to the gas explosion in Allentown and severe flooding in Bradford County.

The camp is basically free to all children. The children who attend the camp must have been affected by a disaster or trauma and have completed kindergarten but not yet entered into 7th grade. Each camp is limited to 50 children each—with children participating in small groups of 6-8 for discussion and craft activity times.

The daily schedule for children (Monday through Friday, 8:30-3) includes worship, Bible study/disaster recovery support, singing, crafts, camp games and fun activities done in small groups as well as breakfast, snacks and lunch. The camp experience ends on Friday afternoon with a closing celebration, after which the national team cleans up,

### Fleece Blankets and Kids Kits

A tied fleece blanket is given to each child participating in a Camp Noah. These colorful blankets do much more than warm bodies. Children are deeply touched by the thought that someone cared enough to make them a pretty cover. It is just one more expression of how God's love comes to them through others. Children often reach for their blankets during story time or when they are feeling uneasy or sad. Each camper is also given a Kids Kit, which contains the pencils, crayons, water paints, etc. needed to complete the projects.

To make a fleece blanket, 1) take two 72 inch pieces of fleece in colors/patterns which are gender neutral and appropriate for the older end of childhood (Campers range from 6-13). Please stay away from specifically themed prints such as sports, Disney, hunting, etc.) 2) Lay one on top of the other on a flat surface, making sure that the correct side is face outward. 3) Cut fringe approximated 1 inch wide, 4-5 inches long around the entire rectangle. Make sure you cut the two pieces simultaneously so the fringe strips are lined up. (You will need to remove a square of fabric at each corner). 5) Match up the two strips (one from each piece of fleece) and double tie them. 6) Repeat around the whole blanket until all of the fabric strips are tied.

To assemble a Kids Kit:

1) purchase:

- (1) 8-count broad line Crayola brand washable markers (classic colors)\*
- (1) 8-count washable Crayola brand watercolor paints with brush.\*
- (1) glue stick
- (1) 24 count box of Crayola brand crayons\*
- (1) kids-sized scissors
- (1) black pen
- (1) pencil
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (1) 5 ounce container of Play-Doh (any color)

2) place in a gallon size zip lock bag and it's a Kids Kit

Funds are needed to offset the costs of training, transportation and supplies needed at the camps.

**All donations can be given to Pastor Ruth or sent or taken to Lutheran Congregational Services, 1923 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA 18109. Checks should be made payable to Lutheran Congregational Services. If delivering items, please call ahead to make sure someone will be present to receive them.**