

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

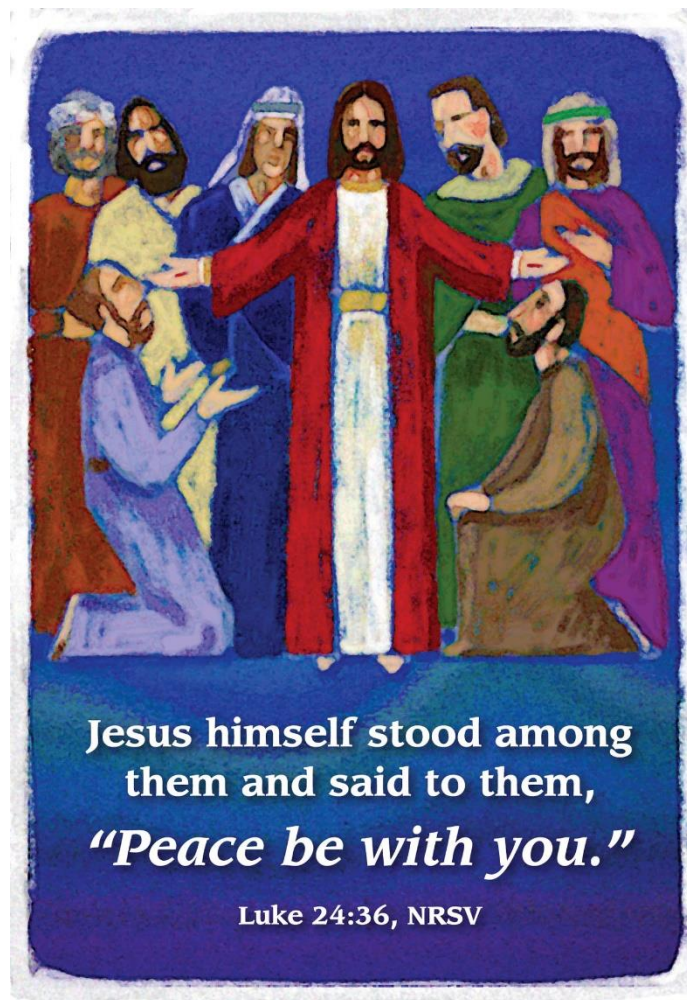
E-MAIL: njelchurch@windstream.net

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

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

(Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)



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.*



PEACE OF THE RISEN LORD JESUS

*The peace of the Lord, The peace of the Lord, the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
The peace of the Lord is for you and for me, and also for all of God's children.*

Anders Ruth; Tr. Gerhard M. Cartford

Peace. How we pray for peace!

As I write this, the leaders of Russia are waging war against the citizens of Ukraine. How urgently we are praying for peace! We know that God's will is that all of God's children live in peace.

Peace. How we pray for peace!

When there is strife between friends and family members, how urgently we pray for peace. When there is strife within our hearts, our blood pressure rises, we experience depression, and cannot sleep at night, how urgently we pray for peace.

Peace.

As I write this, we are in the middle of the Lenten Season, a season when we particularly acknowledge that not all is well with our souls or our behaviors or our relationships or our world; a season when we acknowledge the angst and suffering and betrayal Jesus' faced and wonder whether there ever was or could be peace between people.

Yet, as I write this, I am mindful that "Sunday's coming!" Easter Sunday is coming, the day on which God announced that death does not have the final word, that all the things that work against peace do not have the final word. God does. And God's word on the cross is "It is finished!" And God's word on Sunday morning is, "It is finished! Death does not have the final word! It never has and never will! See, I make all things new!"

Peace.

*The peace of the Lord, The peace of the Lord, the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord is among us right now, so open yourselves to receive it.*

Sometimes we need to be still. We need to sit still and face the reality of our lives, and slowly breathe out...and in...and out...and in...and wait for God; sit and wait for God to bring us something that at least resembles peace, God's peace, the kind of peace the world cannot give, the peace of the Lord, the hope-filled peace of the risen Lord Jesus.

But God's peace is not passive. God's peace does not end with just sitting still.

*The peace of the Lord, The peace of the Lord, the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
The peace of the Lord kept within cannot live, so open yourselves now to share it.*

Just as God does not leave us comfortless, God does not leave us helpless, not even in the face of war in the Ukraine and ways that impacts our everyday lives. Not even in the face of a pandemic. Not even in the face of other turmoils we face. God does not leave us helpless. There are ways we can offer peace, hope-filled peace to others. There are small ways of offering peace, seemingly small ways like a smile, a word of encouragement, a listening ear or the touch of a shoulder, donating food, helping to make quilts or give donations to agencies which can directly provide material aid to those in need. There are so many ways to do this: some small, some large. God calls us to respond to those ways right in front of us, to *actively* seek out other ways, and to continue to pray:

*Lord, let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.*

The peace of the Lord, the risen Lord, be with you in whatever ways you need.
The peace of the Lord be with you and flow through you—always.

Pastor Ruth



NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on March 14th:

- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, gave an update on the finance of the church. Council members approved an authorization for the Finance Committee to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Fidelity Investment account to the Cash Reserve account for payment of expenses when and if needed.
- The COVID Task Force Committee met and updated the guidelines on worship at church (please see the article on this page).
- Fellowship will resume on Sunday, March 27th.

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Sunday, April 17th**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

We are now worshipping in our building every Sunday.

Bulletins will continue to be mailed or emailed to those who request them so that those who cannot be present can join in worship at home. If you would like to receive one, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or njelchurch@windstream.net. Bulletins are also available on our website.

If, for some unforeseen reason (e.g. inclement weather, a rise in the risk of infection, etc.) we are not able to worship in the building we may be able to temporarily revert to Zoom. In this case you will be able to connect with Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other devices. Links will now also be listed in the bulletins or you can call the church office if you need more information.

Those not able to join a Zoom service, can watch them later on our Facebook page or on our website under the "Zoom Worship Services" tab. Website: <https://newjerusalemlutheran.weebly.com>.

FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP is scheduled to resume approximately every other week starting on March 27th.

PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY IN CASE WE NEED TO USE ZOOM FOR WORSHIP

New Jerusalem Sunday Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89499550266?pwd=Mnl3bmxCMkI3TDIHZGlrNXVaVVlmZz09>

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**; Passcode: **27**

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,89499550266# US (Chicago)

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**

UPDATED WORSHIP GUIDELINES

In accordance with advice offered by the CDC and our COVID Response Task Force, Council has revised our Worship Guidelines for the present. These guidelines place responsibility for personal health and safety on individuals. Anyone who has not been vaccinated, is vulnerable, or is concerned about the vulnerability of another with whom they have close contact is encouraged to take the precautions they think necessary to protect their health.

Please note, **these guidelines will change if the level of transmission in our area rises to substantial or high** according to CovidActNow and/or www.CDC.gov.

- 1) Masking is optional. We respect anyone who chooses to wear a mask.
- 2) Singing without masks may be resumed.
- 3) Passing the peace and collecting the offering will be resumed.
- 4) Communion will again be offered at the railing for those who wish to come forward. Those who wish to commune while seated can indicate so to the usher and either bread and wine or the individually-wrapped packets of elements will be brought to them.
- 5) Fellowship after services will be resumed.
- 6) Since the risk level is subject to change, the tape closing off every other pew will be kept in place for the present time.

With these changes in place, **we will now need folks to sign up to provide bread for communion and to assist with set-up and clean-up.**



LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The theme for Lent this year is “Why did Jesus have to die?” The Wednesday midweek Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m.

- March 30 Trinity, Topton
Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty
TOPIC: Father, Forgive Them: The Cross as Reconciliation
- April 6 New Jerusalem, Fleetwood
Preacher: Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman
TOPIC: The Happy Exchange: The Cross as Investment
- April 13 St. Paul’s, Mertztown
Preacher: Pastor Dan Hofstetter
TOPIC: The Cross as Glory
- April 14 **Maundy Thursday**
Hope, Bowers
Preacher: Pastor Martin Milne
and St. Paul’s, Mertztown and Trinity,
Topton at 7:00 p.m.
- April 15 **Good Friday**
New Jerusalem at 12:00 noon
and St. Paul’s, Mertztown and Trinity,
Topton at 7:00 p.m.
- April 16 **Easter Vigil**
New Jerusalem, Communion on the
Parking Lot at 5:00 p.m.
and St. Paul’s, Mertztown at 7:00 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group is now studying Revelation. This month we will meet on **Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 11:00 a.m.** in the church building. Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

CONFIRMATION APRIL 24TH

On **April 24th** we continue our celebration of Jesus’ resurrection and witness Justin Keller’s confirmation. We hope you will join us on this festive occasion when Justin affirms his faith and the vows made for him on the day of his baptism.

COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, April 7, at 10:00 a.m.** Pages and supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.



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

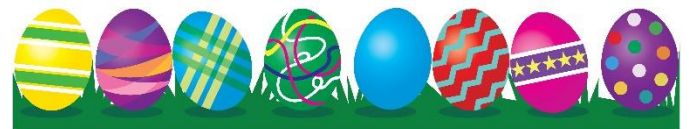
OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Jeannette F. DeLong who passed away on February 20, 2022. A funeral service was held on February 26, 2022 at Walbert Funeral Home in Fleetwood.

THANK YOU

Dear New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you for your gift of \$50.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and across the globe. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future. Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his kingdom. In Christ, *The Rev. Robin Brown, Director, Congregational Generosity*

EASTER EGG HUNT

St. Peter’s UCC, 122 West Franklin Street, Topton, will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 12 and under and adults 13 and up on **Saturday, April 16, at 1:00 p.m.** All are welcome! Gift bags for all who participate.



THE MAJESTICS RETURN – SATURDAY, JULY 30th

Save this date as well for an evening of fun and toe tapping, hand clapping music with “The Majestics.” Other congregations will be assisting us with setup and food.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH

Immediately following worship there will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the amendments listed below. A quorum of 25 voting members is needed to conduct this meeting.

Proposed change to C10.04:

From: 25 voting members shall constitute a quorum.

To: **20 voting members shall constitute a quorum.**

Proposed change to C11.02 (Officers for Congregation Council):

From: The Congregation Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of the congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. . . .

To: **The officers shall be elected by voice vote or written ballot and serve for one year or until their successors are elected. . . .**

Proposed change to C12.01:

From: The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor and not more than 12 nor fewer than 10 members of the congregation.

To: **The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor and not more than 12 nor fewer than 8 members of the congregation.**

Proposed change to C12.02:

From: The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for 3 years, or until their successors are elected.

To: **The members of Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by voice vote or written ballot to serve for 3 years or until their successors are elected.**

SEED CUTTING EVENT

Spring 2022 seed potato cutting is on! Volunteers are needed to prepare 12,500 pounds of seed potatoes for immediate spring planting. The sessions will be held on **Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** at Becker's St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 265 Maidencreek Road, Fleetwood (Molltown). Bring your own knife and cutting board, beverage and snacks. Held rain or shine. Walk in and join us! This will benefit all our hungry neighbors in need! For further information check out www.IHartHarvest.org.

APRIL WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost of sponsoring Altar Flowers is now **\$40.00** per week. The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15.00 for a month. If you would like to sponsor any of the available dates below, please leave a message on the church answering machine with your dedication. Thank you! We are mailing bulletins to many members. The cost for that is about \$45.00 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

Altar Flower sponsors for April:

April 3 – *sponsor needed*

April 10 – Gladys Kline

April 17 – *sponsor needed*

April 24 – The Bailey family

Bulletin Sponsors for April:

April 3 – Cheryl Wiltrout

April 10 – Gladys Kline

April 17 – Rodney and Diane Keller

April 24 – Gladys Kline

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for April:

sponsor needed

Children's Bulletin Sponsor for April:

sponsor needed

Communion Bread Sponsor:

sponsor needed

Communion Set-up Volunteers:

volunteer needed

Altar Guild for April:

volunteer needed

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

Save the Date: Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. is when local congregations will meet at St. Paul's, Mertztown and share the many ways they are ministering. Each congregation will have a table to display ways God is working through them and there will be breakout rooms to learn more and try out some specific activities (for example, we could have pages to color, quilts to help tie, and even offer tips on crocheting and knitting for Seafarers). Food and drinks will also be offered with the proceeds going to Friend, Inc.

Our hope is that this will be a fun time, encourage folks to join in a ministry that strikes their fancy, inspire one another, and be a time of praise for the many ways God's Spirit is working in our community.

NEW JERUSALEM IS PROUD OF ITS SCOUTS

For decades New Jerusalem has sponsored and supported Boy Scout Troop 585 and Cub Scout Pack 585. You may have noticed how our current troop has been cleaning up the cabin and the grounds around it with the help of our Property Committee members, especially Ken Keck, Josh Keck, and Rodney Keller. A special thank you to the current leaders for the troop: Daniel Blanchard, Clinton Holmes, Rita Kayhart, Joseph Maioriello, Scott McCulloch, Phillip Rollman, and Paul Veet. Current scouts include: James Apgar, Anthony Blanchard, Jaydon Boyer, Jackson Eisenhart, Matthew Holmes, Derek Horvath, Nicholas Hunsberger Ryan McCulloch, and Anthony Veet. Please note that Matthew Holmes is currently on the roster until the end of the month because he is aging out next month.

Here's some feedback on some of the things scouts learn through their involvement.

SKILLS GEN Z WISHES THEY LEARNED IN SCHOOL

Gen Z typically refers to young people born between the mid-to-late 1990s and the early 2010s. Most of the not-taught-in-school skills Gen Zers crave are offered in Scouting — either directly (through a merit badge or rank requirement) or indirectly (as a side effect of being a member of a patrol and troop). Listed here, in order, are the skills Gen Zers crave most. The number in parentheses is the percentage of respondents who said they wished they were learning that particular skill.

1. Mental Health (37%)

Being a teen in the 2020s is tough — and that was before the pandemic hit. YPulse research found that 55% of 13- to 20-year-olds say the pandemic has negatively impacted their mental health. But there's hope. [Research has shown](#) that being outside can improve a person's mental health by lowering stress and boosting a person's mood. Scouts know the best parts of Scouting happen in nature — away from anxiety-producing screens and out in the wilderness.

2. Self-defense (36%)

[Bullying awareness](#) is a critical part of the Boy Scout of America's (BSA) mandatory Youth Protection training for adults and youth members. It starts with encouraging Scouts to follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their actions in Scouting, at school and at home. But it goes even

further. Scouts learn to “Be Upstanding,” which refers to powerful tools for identifying and responding to bullying.

3. Survival Skills and Basic First Aid (35%)

Through the [Wilderness Survival](#) and [First Aid](#) merit badges, Scouts learn to respond to unexpected events. The Wilderness Survival merit badge conjures images of Scouts building shelters out of tree branches (that's literally the image on the merit badge emblem), but it's about more than that. It's about building confidence in young people that they can calmly respond to emergencies without having to look up the answer on YouTube. The same is true of the Eagle-required First Aid merit badge, where Scouts practice treating wounds, performing CPR and rescuing a choking victim — skills that could (and have) save lives.

4. Cooking (34%)

As schools cut budgets and put more of their focus on preparing students for standardized tests, courses like home economics were some of the first to go. And during a busy weeknight, what parent has the time (or patience) to teach their child how to cook? That's where Scouting comes in. With the Eagle-required [Cooking](#) merit badge, Scouts practice their kitchen skills — not to become culinary masters, necessarily, but to at least develop a comfort with this life skill.

5. Personal Finance (32%)

Balancing a checkbook — or even simply writing a check — might be a skill Gen Zers never need. But the march toward a paperless economy doesn't obviate the need for money management skills. Enter the Eagle-required [Personal Management](#) merit badge. To earn it, Scouts must prepare a budget and track their spending over 13 weeks. As the world makes it easier and easier to buy something with just a tap, this skill is essential.

6. Communication Skills (28%)

With job interviews, project presentations and even simple Zoom calls on the horizon, Gen Zers will encounter communications hurdles throughout their lives. Anyone can become a skilled communicator, but it starts with acquiring the right tools. Thanks to the Eagle-required [Communication](#) merit badge, Scouts will Be Prepared with a skill required in every profession on the planet.

7. Emotional Intelligence (28%)

Emotional intelligence, which *Psychology Today* defines as “the ability to identify and manage one’s own emotions, as well as the emotions of others,” isn’t covered in any merit badge. But Scouting offers a unique opportunity for Scouts to work together to accomplish difficult things. A trek at Philmont Scout Ranch is the perfect example. Somewhere in those 10 days in the backcountry, you’re going to hit some speedbumps. Voices might be raised, and verbal arguments might arise, but when those issues get resolved, every member of the crew will be stronger for it. Their emotional intelligence will have been enhanced.

8. Time Management (27%)

Scouts are masters of multitasking. We’ve met countless busy Scouting families, and we’re constantly impressed by how much they manage to accomplish each week. Balancing school, Scouting, sports and other extracurriculars requires careful planning and buy-in from every member of the family. The time management skill Gen Zers practice in Scouting will help them in college and/or their career.

9. Basics of Law (23%)

Binging classic episodes of *Law & Order*? Maybe not the best way to learn the ins and outs of the legal profession. Scouts who want the basics of law — always a handy skill to take into life and a career — can look no further than the [Law](#) merit badge, where they’ll take a closer look at the legal profession.

10. Auto Maintenance (23%)

Like home economics courses, auto shop classes used to be common at many high schools. But as school districts shifted away from these courses, young people either learned about cars from their parents or didn’t learn at all. Scouting, once again, can fill the void. Gen Zers who earn the [Automotive Maintenance](#) merit badge get a crash course in car maintenance and safety.

11. Household Repairs and Maintenance (21%)

Thanks to YouTube, anyone can learn basic home-repair skills like how to fix a toilet, replace a pane of glass or varnish a piece of furniture. But while a YouTube video can be paused and replayed again and again, it’s not interactive. The [Home Repairs](#) merit badge, on the other hand, most definitely is. Scouts work with a qualified counselor to practice skills they might

need when they move into their own place some day.

12. Nutrition (20%)

Knowing how to cook is level one. Knowing *what* to cook and how that food will give your body the nutrients it needs? That requires some next-level skills. The Eagle-required [Cooking](#) merit badge (making its second appearance on this list) has Scouts covered there. The badge has a whole requirement about nutrition, helping Gen Zers think about their eating habits and how they might eat healthier.

13. Relationship Counseling (18%)

As a patrol leader or senior patrol leader, Scouts may be called upon to mediate when two Scouts aren’t getting along. Though the Scoutmaster or another trusted adult should be standing by if needed, many minor disagreements can be resolved by a youth leader who knows how to defuse tension — show empathy, listen to both sides and work toward a compromise.

14. Sewing (16%)

Included on the list of skills Gen Zers crave is one their parents crave, too, especially parents of Scouts who have earned lots and lots of merit badges. Sewing, whether with a machine or by hand, can help a person throughout life. And many Scouts learn how to sew either by choice or out of necessity. Lost button? Sew on a new one! Hole in your backpack? Stitch it back together! Ripped jeans? Consider it fashionable! (Or sew on a cool-looking patch!) With this skill, the possibilities are endless.

15. Networking and Relationship Building (16%)

Many of the Scouts we’ve met have a beyond-their-years ability to talk to adults. They have confidence, poise and even an interesting story or two. Networking ability is yet another skill Gen Zers can pick up in Scouting. Whether talking with a group of assistant Scoutmasters after a troop meeting or impressing community leaders at a board of review, Scouting offers ample opportunities to practice networking.

16. Family Resource Management (15%)

From that first Cub Scout meeting on, Scouting brings families closer together. While BSA gives more chances for young people to work independently — and grow on their own — it still provides ways for families to connect. The Eagle-required [Family Life](#) merit badge is a perfect example. Through conversations with a

parent or guardian, Scouts discuss why they're important to the family and how the actions of one family member affect the others.

17. Negotiation (14%)

Reaching a compromise between two parties in disagreement can feel impossible. But not for Scouts. Scouts get to practice negotiation when the stakes are low — “I want to cook jambalaya!” “But I want red beans and rice!” — which helps them Be Prepared for more stressful situations.

18. Digital Etiquette (13%)

Someday, Gen Zers will use their phones to file their income taxes or buy a home. But for now, those devices can bring a different kind of anxiety through cyberbullying and other digital dangers. While their teachers may tell them to keep their phones out of sight, Scouting encourages young people to actively think about these devices and their responsible use. Tools like the BSA's [Cyber Chip](#) help young people know how to be friendly, courteous and kind online.

Surviving in the wild? Yes, Scouts still learn to do that.

Adapted from a February 2022 article by Bryan Wendell, an Eagle Scout and the founder of Bryan on Scouting

NOW WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

Here are some possible historical trivia.

Centuries ago, personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'Mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile.' In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt. Therefore, the expression 'losing face.' Lady's wore corsets, which would lace up the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight-laced' wore a tightly laced corset. *Thank goodness this is no longer the fashion!*

Common entertainment included playing cards. A tax was levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the Ace of Spades. To avoid

paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

At local taverns, pubs and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in pints and who was drinking in quarts. Hence the phrase "minding your p's and q's."

WAYS TO PRACTICE GRATITUDE

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Remember to compliment your friends and family when they look good and for other reasons.
2. Write a card to someone you haven't seen in a while and tell them something nice.
3. Make a gratitude list and add an item each day.
4. Commit to one day a week when you won't complain about anything.
5. Reward effort.
6. Thank the people who serve you in the community: the check-out clerk, those stocking store shelves, those cleaning areas you are in, the mail person, etc.



COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT RESUMES EASTER EVE

Join us for Communion on the Parking Lot Saturday, **April 15, at 5:00 p.m.** Feel free to bring a lawn chair or stay in your car.

Since this is such a joyous occasion, we will hold this service rain or shine. If the weather is wet, we will help folks who normally stay in their cars to get into the church.

I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER FOR YOU

Beginning this month, we are listing the name of one of our members or a family on each weekday of our calendar. Please remember that person in prayer, even if you don't know them.



- 5 Sara Jane Beshore
- 5 Justin Rahn
- 18 Jayna Howell
- 19 Erma Guinther
- 21 Annabell Keller
- 28 Amy Hahn
- 29 Daniel Moyer
- 30 Richard Carl



- 9 Jason and Tina Howell (11 years)
- 15 Alan and Sherrie Carl (33 years)
- 24 Randy and Tammy Cleaver (13 years)

THE MAJESTY OF GOD'S CREATION

Earth Day offers a reminder to be wise stewards of God's creation. Former U.S. Senate chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie wrote about how the universe reveals the greatness of its Maker. "If we were to drive a car day and night at top speed without stopping," he writes, "it would take us nine years to reach the moon, 300 years to reach the sun, 8,300 years to reach the planet Neptune, 75 million years to reach Alpha Centauri, and 700 million years to reach the Pole Star.

"This is the reason the Psalmist, even with his limited cosmology, could say, 'When I consider the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty!' (Psalm 8:3-5). Astonishing indeed!

Reprinted from The Newsletter Newsletter



PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Myles Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members: Family and friends of Jeannette DeLong, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, and Elaine Seip.

Friends of the congregation: Charlie Ackerman, John Arndt, Michael Basta, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mitch Burkhardt, Cindy D., Katie Didyoung, John Drumheller, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Peg H., Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, DeeDee K., Debra Kenny, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Harry Naugle, Johnathan Naugle, Randy Schlegel, Willow Schlegel, Tierney Schmeer, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Sptaz, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Raymond Wright, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Gabby, Lynn, Meaghan, Mike, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for: all seeking to respond lovingly and responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters; migrants and refugees; 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, and the chaplains at the Berks County Jail.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Nancy Bennecoff, Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.

EASTER STEWARDSHIP: RESURRECTION RESET

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. - Romans 6:3-4

Christ is Risen! Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The triumphant words we cherish every Easter signal more than just Jesus' victory over the grave. They announce for us the end of deadness and the start of a new life, a fresh beginning, in our earthly pilgrimage. Jesus was raised from the dead so that we, too, might walk in newness of life.

From Jesus' resurrection, our lives take on a new trajectory, a turn away from the values and precepts of the world and toward the kingdom of God. As we walk, our lives progressively align with the purposes and mission of God.

For a steward-disciple of our Lord, the implications are many. As we walk in newness of life, we might find ourselves

- Re-examining our relationship to “stuff” – our money, our possessions, the things that might have given us a sense of security or worth. Jesus is our security and our worth.
- Drawing closer to family and friends. True wealth is measured by the love we give and receive. Our lives effervesce with the love we receive from God.
- Contributing more to church and charity. Jesus frees us from the grip that possessions have upon us. We can more freely give.
- Gathering into our lives what Paul calls the fruits of the spirit: “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

May your lives as steward-disciples take a resurrection reset. Christ is risen! Risen indeed! Alleluia!

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2022, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com

Christ Is Risen!
CHRIST
IS RISEN
INDEED *Alleluia*

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

February 28, 2022

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 22,069.92
Thrivent	11,896.77
Checking	7,806.54
Youth	406.60
Fidelity	67,493.56
Cash Reserve	19,417.54
Mission Investment Fund	11,623.40
Local Care	<u>2,320.31</u>

Total: \$ 143,034.64

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **February 28, 2021** \$ 165,143.49

February 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	\$ 5,979.17	(\$ 3,912.08)

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

HELD IN GOD'S LOVE

We would like to think that once we turn our lives over to Christ, everything will run smoothly. When such is not the case, we might question whether our faith is strong enough or what we are doing wrong. The fact is, we live in a broken world, and sufferings come upon all people.

In the words of 14th-century mystic Julian of Norwich: “If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love.”

We might take comfort in the fact that our struggles are not so different from those experienced seven centuries ago. We are “normal,” after all! But the greatest assurance is that no matter what we face in life, Jesus walks with us, the Holy Spirit strengthens us, and “we are always kept in [God’s] precious love.”

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

LUTHERANS REACH OUT TO UKRAINIANS

By now many of you have seen the bulletin inserts about how Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response are assisting those in and fleeing from the Ukraine. These two organizations complement each other. Each partners with other organizations for the most efficient and effective response. Here's a little background on the two organizations.



You may recognize this name as the organization through which New Jerusalem donate quilts and other kits. We will soon be making more quilts to replenish the supplies that have already been used.

In 1945, World War II left an estimated one-fifth of the world's Lutherans homeless. Here in the United States, Lutheran churches in at least 20 states mobilized to help in Europe through a new agency called Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Much has changed in nearly 75 years, but in thousands of congregations, millions of offerings and uncounted prayers, U. S. Lutherans continue to support Lutheran World Relief's work.

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience around the world, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. LWR works work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize.

Lutheran World Relief belongs to the Corus International family of organizations which include IMA World Health/Corus World Health, CGA Technologies and Ground Up Investing. These partners stand in solidarity with Ukraine and were able to immediately respond to Ukrainians in need of humanitarian assistance using stockpiles of supplies in nearby countries. They are able to partner with local organizations which have direct access to those inside Ukrainia as well as refugees.

The CEO of LWR, Daniel Speckhard, is also the president and CEO of Corus International. He is a former U.S. Ambassador to Greece and Belarus, and has had a long and distinguished career in government service under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Previous positions have included serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary

General at NATO and Deputy Chief of Mission in Iraq. He also served as a senior advisor to Palantir Technologies, a Silicon Valley company at the forefront of using technology to drive innovative change across the government, commercial and non-profit sectors. Daniel says his Lutheran upbringing instilled in him a strong core value of service to others, and a deep desire to contribute to alleviating poverty, suffering and injustice in the world. He is known as a problem solver, a negotiator, a consensus builder and a visionary. You can read more about LWR at www.LWR.org.

Thanks to generous support from several Lutheran Congregations, all donations to LWR designated as "match" that are received by April 25, 2022, will be doubled. They can be sent to Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061 or call +1 (800) 597.5972 to your secure credit card donations.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Many of you recognize Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) as the ELCA organization that responds immediately to local and foreign disasters and stays for the long haul. Some of us have volunteered through this organization to help rebuild houses. Many of us have donated when tornadoes, wildfires and floods have devastated parts of our country. LDR also responds to international disasters.

Now LDR is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia by working alongside ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits as well as pastoral care and psychological support. All donations to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely for people impacted by conflict in the region of the Ukraine.



HOLY WEEK i-spy

Create this craft to share the events of Holy Week with a younger sibling or friend.



What you need:

- Clear bottle or jar with lid
- White rice
- Small items that symbolize Holy Week events

What you do:

1. Pour rice into bottle or jar so it's about two-thirds full.
2. Add the small items. Ideas: leaf, donkey, cup, towel square, praying hands, coin, bird, nails, thorn, cross, dice, stick, lamb, stone, white fabric.
3. Fasten the lid. Then shake and turn the bottle to "spy" each item.

PUZZLE



Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection, and each one offers important details.

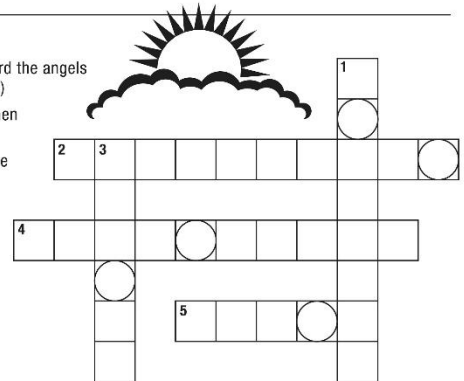
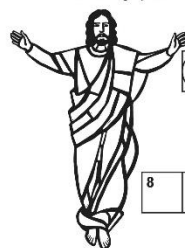
Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN

1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

"I _ m ascen _ ing _ o my
Fat _ er and your Fa _ her,
to _ y _ od and your God."
Joh _ 20:17, NIV

Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen;
DOWN 1. garden, 3. earthquake, 6. Salome; "I am ascending to my Father and
your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17, NIV



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



APRIL 2022 • ISSUE 4 • VOLUME 30

Easter 2022 – No Idle Tale

“I love to tell the story...” So goes the great old hymn. But the world is filled with stories today, that are tough to tell. As Covid lingers. As the war in Ukraine breaks our heart. What’s next? And will it be worse? Just as much, I worry: can we trust each other anymore? Trust enough to share any kind of news, and believe it, together? Do we still hold in common, any of the assumptions, beliefs, and causes we used to share? Or is our world now filled only with suspicions and deceptions – “fake news” from all sources, on all sides?

On that first Easter Sunday, still overshadowed by Good Friday, bleakness and distrust were also all around. Even when those energized, overjoyed women burst in, announcing the most amazing thing they had ever seen and heard – HIS TOMB IS EMPTY! JESUS IS RISEN! – even then, “all the rest” dismissed their report as nothing more than “an idle tale” (Luke 24:11).

We are the church. We are called to be different. If the prevailing winds of our world today are seeking to blow us apart, the Holy Spirit winds us back together. God calls us to come to the places of sadness and sickness and doubt and despair – where all hope is dead and buried – and be ready to be amazed. Ready to see (and say!) what was dead – is now ALIVE. What was lost – is now FOUND. What was impossible – is now POSSIBLE. Real. True. And trustworthy. Jesus is risen, and we shall arise. The Bible prophets foretold it. Jesus said it, again and again. But almost nobody could trust it. Until God made it true, and sent people out to spread the word, the good news, the gospel. God is still sending us today. This Easter Sunday is like the first: a world full of doubt and distrust. A world full of conflict and separation. In the midst of it all, Christ is standing here with us. The Holy Spirit is in us and giving us courage. And God is making all things new, even now.

Jesus is risen, and we shall arise. Let us share this good news, for ALL people, for ALL creation. Holy God, give us the power to trust it, and to share it. Rebuild in us: trust in you. And through us: rebuild trust throughout our world, with justice, with peace, with faith, hope and love.

Blessed Easter to you and yours!
Bishop Christopher deForest



TOGETHER

Our 2022 Assembly will be held online on June 10-11. Each congregation is entitled to bring two voting members. If you are interested in attending the synod assembly as a voting member please reach out to your congregation's leadership for more information.



**check out
our new
website**



Join us on the 2nd
Saturday of every month!
(more information on our website)

STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA

JUNE 18, 2022
**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LANSDALE**
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)



APRIL 23 & 24, 2022, 1PM-4PM
RAIN OR SHINE, BAREBONES EVENT, BRING
YOUR OWN KNIFE, CUTTING BOARD, DRINKS,
AND SNACKS. WE'LL BE CUTTING THE SEED
POTATOES FOR PLANTING SEASON! ALL ARE
INVITED! JUST WALK-IN AND HELP!

BECKER'S ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
265 MAIDENCREEK ROAD
FLEETWOOD, PA 19522

APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please remember the following members listed on the days of the week in your prayers.</p>					1 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. The Allen Family	2
3 <u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion	4 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Anna Angstadt	5 Myles Angstadt	6 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, New Jerusalem, Fleetwood The Bailey Family	7 10:00am-Coloring Group Michael Barlet	8 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Tara Basta	9 Richard Bausher
10 <u>Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion Congregational Meeting immediately after worship Fellowship after meeting	11 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting Bertha Bennecoff	12 Randy and Luann Bennecoff	13 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, St. Paul's, Mertztown	14 7:00pm-Maundy Thursday at Hope Lutheran, Bowers, St. Paul's, Mertztown, and Trinity, Topton Keith Boyer	15 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 12:00pm-Good Friday, New Jerusalem 7:00pm-Good Friday, St. Paul's, Mertztown and Trinity, Topton Richard Boyer	16 1:00pm-Easter Egg Hunt, St. Peter's UCC, Topton 5:00pm-Easter Vigil Communion on the Parking Lot, New Jerusalem 7:00pm-Easter Vigil, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown
17 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Alan and Sherri Carl	19 Richard Carl	20 12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Elwood and Katie Ellen Cleaver	21 The Cleaver Family	22 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. EARTH DAY Norma Conrad	23
24 <u>Second Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship Confirmation – Justin Keller Fellowship after worship	25 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Larry and Faye Dey	26 Carolyn Dise	27 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Pastor Ruth and Rick Doty	28 Ted and Betty Eshbach	29 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Phyllis Fenstermacher	30 10:00am-2:00pm-Celebration of Ministries, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown