

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

(Normally Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon, but during the current times, please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)

We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. — from *The Message*



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.



We have this treasure in clay jars. . . .

2 Corinthians 4:7

Dear Friends,

Clay jars. In the time of Jesus and of Paul clay jars were essential throughout the world, essential for storage and transport of just about everything that might fit inside. There was no plastic or cardboard and glass was extremely expensive and wasn't very strong back then.

Clay pots ranged in size, shape and appearance. Some were beautiful to look at, but most were standard issue, though the design might vary from culture to culture. For the most part clay pots were valuable because of what they held: water, grain, oil, etc., not because they were so great by themselves. Unlike glass, you couldn't see what was inside a clay pot, unless you made the effort to look through the top or, perhaps, could smell the aroma of what was inside.

Clay pots. Made from the dust of the earth. Made with water and a master's hand. Clay pots can be very sturdy if made well and cared for, but, being made from dust, all are eventually prone to cracking, and returning to dust. Over the centuries most clay pots have been replaced with other, more practical, kinds of containers.

We can go two directions as we consider this message of Paul to the church in Corinth.

The first direction has to do with thinking about our individual selves as being like clay pots with great treasure inside. As I live and work, visit and worship with you I continually witness treasures that each of you carries within. I am especially encouraged by the ways you yearn to know, worship, and serve God and the ways you share your faith, that precious treasure God has placed inside of you. As I think about myself and as I live with you, I am also aware of the fragility of our "clay jars," our physical bodies. I know those of us who are adults think about the fact that there will be a time when our bodies, formed by our Master from the elements of the earth, will return to the earth. While we are assured that death is not the end, and that there is much more to come after that, we are also encouraged to share and pass on the treasure that we hold inside: the wisdom, life lessons, and, most of all, the love we have from God. In addition, thinking of others as clay pots with great treasure, clay pots which are not transparent like glass, it is important for us to find ways to "see" inside others and discover the treasures within.

The second direction has to do with thinking about the church community as a clay pot, a vessel containing a treasure. This was the original point that Paul was trying to make with the young church at Corinth. He was concerned that they were confusing the container and the "stuff contained,"¹ that they were placing *too much* attention on the structure of the community and not on its treasure, the good news of God's love made manifest in Jesus. They were fussing over customs and procedures, etc. instead of the treasure we most desperately must have to live an abundant life:

Forgiveness in order to start again in a society that never forgives and keeps score forever;
Generosity that overwhelms our lack in a society based in scarcity and getting more for ourselves;
Hospitality that welcomes us in a society that is inhospitable to all but our kind; and
Justice that protects the vulnerable in a social system that is deathly in its injustice.¹

“In other words, the treasure is the old, old story of God’s self-giving graciousness to us and to all creatures.”¹ Everything else is a clay pot that is designed to hold, carry, and deliver the treasure. The real treasure helps us and others to see God more clearly, love God more dearly and follow God more nearly.

With this in mind, our form of worship and budgets, building and programs, bells and bulletins, candles and music are the containers and, like clay pots, are fragile, likely to “break” and, at some point, will need to be replaced with a different kind of container that will be able to carry the treasure into the future so that it can be shared in ways that will meet those needs. This way of thinking doesn’t mean that our stewardship and deliberations about our resources and life together are not important. We just have to keep in mind what the *real* treasure is.

Many of us worry and grieve that church is not like it used to be. And, it’s okay to grieve. But what are we grieving? “We humans like our clay pots in a certain way. We like the handle and the design and the color the way we like them.”¹ We like our worship to be in a certain way and music and mission to be done in a certain way, etc., etc. and that’s okay, but most of us also realize things do and need to change. Are we grieving changes in form or are we grieving that because of changes happening among us and in society, the message of God’s love, the treasure, doesn’t seem to be getting carried and shared with others as well as it used to be?

Whether we think of our bodies or of our congregation as a clay pot fashioned by our Master Potter, the analogy can give us hope, even as we face challenging times and difficult decisions. It can give us hope because we have faith that the Master who created our bodies and created this congregation, can and continues, like a potter, to make, unmake and remake the “pot.” In fact, our Master Potter, God, is reshaping the pot, the church, right before our eyes, and the promise of Jesus’ resurrection is that even the physical death of our bodies is not the end, but that our lives will be transformed. into something even more beautiful.

So, in the words of Paul,

¹Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times. . . .

⁵Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. . . .

⁷We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. . . We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, ⁹ but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. ¹⁰ What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! . . .

¹³We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. ¹⁴ And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. ¹⁵ Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise!

¹⁶So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. ¹⁷ These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. ¹⁸ There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever. ²

Be at peace as you share your treasure.

Pastor Ruth



¹ Walter Brueggeman “On Preaching – Getting Smashed for Jesus.” Sermon delivered MY 2014 at the Festival of Homiletics, Minneapolis, MN. Ideas for this message taken from this sermon.

²2 Corinthians 4, *The Message*, Eugene Peterson. Used with permission.

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on July 12:

- A motion was made for the scout troop to purchase supplies to do some much-needed repairs at the scout cabin.
- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, gave an update on the church financials and it was approved to use Elite Fuel Service for the heating contract for the 2021-2022 heating season.
- An update to the worship guidelines now reflects that at this time masks are not required when singing in the church building, though it is still highly recommended to wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated.
- Plans are being discussed to find a way to broadcast the worship service in the sanctuary live via Zoom.
- Council and other leaders will be meeting with Assistant to the Bishop, Travis Woodfield, on August 29 to continue to consider where God is calling us as a congregation.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ruth will be out of town from after church August 8 through August 15, but available by phone. Pastor Tom Lang will cover any local pastoral care needs. You can contact him at 215.527.4213.

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE is Sunday, August 22

Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

On **Sunday, August 1, at 10:30 a.m.**, New Jerusalem will join with other area churches for Outdoor Worship and Picnic in Bowers Park. This will take the place of our regular worship at New Jerusalem for that particular Sunday. Members of New Jerusalem are asked to provide desserts and fruit for the picnic following worship. See Cheryl Wiltrout if you are willing to contribute. There are benches to sit on, or you may bring along lawn chairs to sit in the grass.

Worship in our building will be held August 15 at 10:00 a.m. Worship will be held via Zoom on August 8, 22, and 29. Communion will be offered on the Parking Lot Saturday, August 28, at 5:00 p.m.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND MOBILE DEVICES

will take place **Saturday, August 28, 5:00 p.m.** during Communion on the Parking Lot. Students and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks, laptops, etc. to be blessed during the service. **Games and refreshments to follow** so we can continue “commune”ing together.



OTHER WORSHIP NOTES

For services on Zoom (August 8, 22, and 29), you can 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.

Bulletins are being mailed or emailed to those who request them so that they can 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.

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>

LINK FOR ZOOM 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**

“What is faith, after all, but believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse?”

Farrer, Austin, referred to in Philip Yancey, *Prayer, Does it Make Any Difference* (Grand Rapids, 2006), 210.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

Our current guidelines are as follows:

- 1) For the time being, seating will be every other pew. This can be further discussed in the future. Members will be directed as to where to sit.
- 2) If you have been vaccinated for COVID, you have the choice of taking your mask off or leaving it on. If you are not vaccinated, we recommend that you wear a mask.
- 3) Masks are no longer expected and requested during singing. However, if you are not vaccinated, it is highly recommended that you still wear a mask.
- 4) Communion will be held the first Sunday of the month in your pew.
- 5) Communion on the Parking Lot will be held the last Saturday of the month so as to include those who don't feel safe to come into church. This will continue until the fall.
- 6) For the time being, we will continue to do in-church worship on the first and third Sundays of the month and Zoom services on the other Sundays. Further research and discussion is taking place about live broadcasting and recording church services to accommodate those not able to worship in the building.

The Worship and Music Committee, the council and our Task Force will continue to monitor the situation and will make modifications as they deem it wise. The guiding principle is love of God and love for our neighbor, including the vulnerable among us.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group is currently studying Paul's letter to the Romans. In this letter Paul spells out many of the core concepts of our Christian faith. It is while reading this letter that Martin Luther discovered God's grace, that we are saved by God's undeserved love and not by works. Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, August 2, 23, and 30 at 11:00 a.m. and Monday, August 16 at 3:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, August 5, 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.

THREADS FOR OTHERS

Keep on knitting and crocheting for the Seafarers. If you need material to make masks or yarn for cowls and hats for seafarers, let Pastor Ruth know.

AUGUST WORSHIP SPONSORS

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!

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

Altar Flowers for August:

August 15 – Tara Basta

Bulletin Sponsors for August:

August 1 – sponsor needed
August 8 – sponsor needed
August 15 – sponsor needed
August 22 – sponsor needed
August 29 – sponsor needed

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for August:

sponsor needed

Children's Bulletins for August:

sponsor needed

NEW JERUSALEM FALL FESTIVAL

At their recent meeting, the Stewardship Committee made the decision to not hold the Fall Festival for this year. We hope to be able to hold it another time when we have more help available.

“Prayer is a moment of incarnation — God with us. God involved in the details of my life.”

—Paul E. Miller

FAITH FORMATION SATURDAYS

Join members of synod for Faith Formation Saturdays the second Saturday of each month to learn, engage, and gain insight into your faith. Held virtually from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$5.00. Please register at www.cvent.com/d/fjq1wn. Log-in information will be sent to registrants two days before the event. Each workshop will feature a guest presenter. For a description of each workshop, check out the synod website at www.godslove.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown: Sunday, August 1, through Thursday, August 5, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The theme for this year is BOLT: Totally 80's. You can register on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheranmertztown.

SAUSAGE SANDWICH SALE

Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, will be holding a Sausage Sandwich Sale on **Saturday, August 7th from 10:00 a.m. until sold out**. Cost is \$5.00 per sandwich. Be sure to come early before they're all gone.

Recognizing there are many in our congregation who are seriously ill, we offer this "new to us" hymn from *All Creation Sings*.

"When We Must Bear Persistent Pain"

- 1 When we must bear persistent pain
and suffer with no cure in sight,
come, Holy Presence, breathe your peace
with gifts of warmth and healing light.
- 2 Support us as we learn new ways
to care for bodies newly frail.
Help us endure, and live and love.
Hear our complaint when patience fails.
- 3 We thank you for the better days
when we may smile to greet the sun,
to do your work with clearing mind,
and bless your name when day is done.
- 4 In ease or pain, in life and death,
to you our fragile lives belong,
and so we trust you in all things.
You are our hope, our health, our song.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
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CAMP NOAH – BERKS 2021
August 2-6, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Oley Fairgrounds
26 Jefferson Street, Oley, PA 19547

For Children who have completed K-6th grades.
Campers attend FREE! All food, materials, t-shirt... Included!

Kids have had uncertainty in their lives this past year in the midst of a pandemic. Camp Noah is a unique educational experience nurturing skill for life: coping with stress, healing from loss, restoring hope. We will play games, do crafts, share stories, celebrate campers, eat good food, restore relationships, and be community in a COVID-safe, outdoor setting with professional leaders.

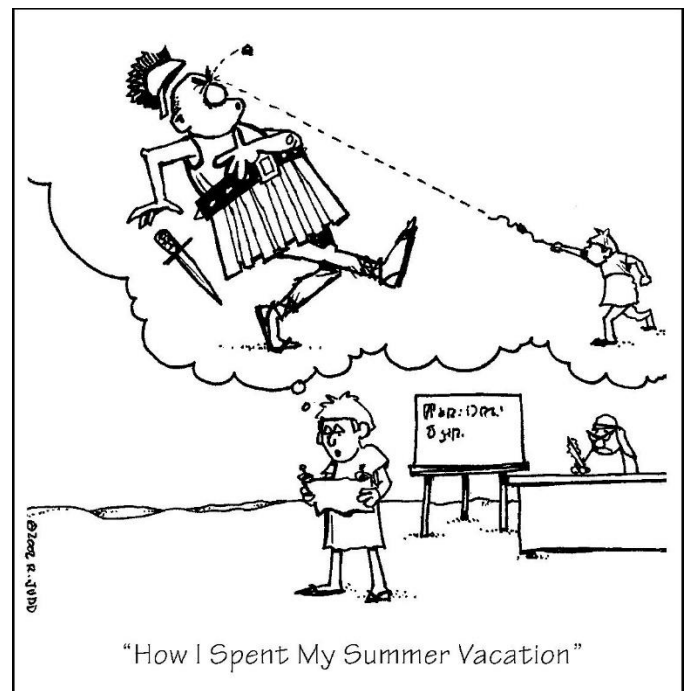
Volunteers, financial and in-kind donations are needed. To volunteer or ask questions contact:

Volunteers: Kathy Schaeffer
KSchaeffer@friedenslutheran.org 610-987-6021

Financial/In-Kind Donations Individuals

/Business Sponsors: Rebecca Knox
RevKnox7@gmail.com 610-823-8343

Cash, Checks and electronic donations welcome:
Mail to: Frieden's Lutheran Church
Put "Camp Noah" in memo line
1076 Memorial Hwy, Oley, PA 19547 or online
Friedenslutheran.org - select 'Camp Noah' option.





- 14 Brian Keller
- 15 Steven Seip
- 16 Gabriele Sanders
- 19 Lynne Lounsbury
- 21 Patricia Keck
- 21 Denny Beshore
- 22 Tara Basta
- 24 Anna Angstadt
- 26 Joyce Rothermel
- 27 Faye Dey
- 28 Forrest Merkel, Jr.



- 9 Jeff and Dawn Wengert (24 years)
- 15 David and Diane Moyer (23 years)
- 18 Marlowe and Brenda Greis (37 years)
- 19 Rick and Pastor Ruth Doty (49 years)
- 23 Kenneth and Cheryl Wiltrout (46 years)

SEEING THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Mary lived at the assisted living facility where my Mom was living. I spent so much time there that I volunteered to do activities with the residents one of which was playing BINGO. When Mary got BINGO she would excitedly call out “BINGO!!!!!!” and we would check her care. Sure enough she had won and she would inevitably say “I never won before” and would be as happy as could be. This happened a couple of times each time we played and she was just as excited each and every time. For some reason, rather than being sad at her acute memory loss, I sort of envied her ability to be happy over and over again for the same reason.

Shared by Kathleen Walling, a friend of Pastor Ruth’s

In what ways might this story touch your life?

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

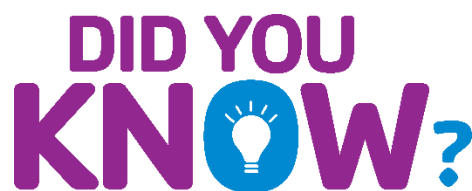
June 30, 2021

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 21,492.73
Thrivent	11,200.28
Checking	2,445.18
Youth	406.56
Fidelity	89,153.58
Cash Reserve	19,414.93
Mission Investment Fund	11,589.29
Local Care	2,105.31
Total:	<u>\$ 157,807.86</u>

June 2021 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,651.25	\$ 3,112.89	(\$ 6,538.36)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2021
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*



LION

A lion represents watchfulness and alertness. It also symbolizes Christ, the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:4-5). A winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark, whose gospel focuses on Jesus' royalty and resurrection.



Reprinted from The Newsletter Newsletter

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND HELPS CONGREGATIONS

As you look at the statement of accounts you will notice that some of the funds of New Jerusalem are invested in a program called Mission Investment Fund (MIF), which is a financial ministry of the ELCA.

Monies invested through MIF earn interest at fairly competitive rates. The funds are, in turn, made available at relatively low interest rates to congregations in need of a loan for church and ministry building projects, land purchases or refinancing.

Here's one example of how Mission Investment Fund (MIF) works:

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke, VA spent a long time planning for the renovation of its sanctuary. The work was completed in 2013. Sometime later Mission Investment Fund was able to refinance the loan, producing cost savings for the congregation. When the pandemic struck, Abiding Presence again turned to MIF and, not knowing what was coming, was able to arrange a short-term loan adjustment that offered the congregation some fiscal stability and much-needed peace of mind in the most turbulent of times. "We went to interest-only payments for three months while we figured out what our finances were going to look like," Pastor Meredith Lovell Keseley reported.

That arrangement and then unflinching commitment of Abiding Presence's members enabled the congregation to focus on other pressing issues, including a staggering increase in needs met by the church's food pantry. Where previously it might have served 20 to 25 households each month, in 2020 it came to serve 10 times that number.

According to Pastor Keseley, "The congregation raised about \$80,000 in food pantry support on top of giving. Our flexibility with MIF allowed us to make sure we were able to respond to the ministry needs in our community first and foremost."

– Information from the latest *Mission Investment Fund* magazine

CHANGE

Change keeps occurring throughout all of life. Sometimes it brings joy, and sometimes it brings strife. Change what you should; but you still have a voice - How you accept every change is your choice.
– Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

NEW MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

In conjunction with Helping Harvest, a new Mobile Food Pantry is opening at Huff's Union Church in Alburdis. Families who live a distance from other food pantries will be able to receive food on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

How Can You Help?

Friend, Inc. would love to find a group to help them hand out the food each month. It can be a church, or a service organization, or even a family that wants to have a project to do! The event is simple—cars pull up, volunteers load their car with food, and they are off! If you would like to reserve a month to help, please contact: cathy@friendinc.org or call 610-683-7791.

TELL ME YOU'RE LUTHERAN WITHOUT TELLING ME YOU'RE LUTHERAN: A CHALLENGE FROM BISHOP EATON

In mid-July Bishop Elizabeth Eaton sent out a video challenging us to find a way to convey to others what we believe without using the label or category *Lutheran* or even *Christian*. She asked, "How would you describe what you believe in a way that makes sense in today's world, so that more people can know the way of Jesus and find community, justice and love?" How would you do this?

Labels and categories can be really useful at times. However, when we use them to describe ourselves, 1) we don't really know whether the person listening to us defines that category the way we do, and 2) we may miss the opportunity to really think about what we mean, and in this case, what we really believe.

So, give it a try and let us know what you come up with. That way, each of us can be enriched by your expression of faith and have more ideas of how to share our faith in Jesus with others.

"Trusting in God does not . . . mean that he will ensure that none of the things you're afraid of will ever happen to you. On the contrary, it means that whatever you fear is quite likely to happen, but that with God's help it will in the end turn out to be nothing to be afraid of."

Aitken, Jonathan, quoted in Philip Yancy, *Prayer, Does it Make Any Difference* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2006), 210.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR LEISURE TIME

I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun. – Ecclesiastes 8:15

Busy-ness keeps us from living with joy and peace in today's 24/7 world, but Scripture reminds us that this is hardly new. Ecclesiastes was written some 2,500 years ago! Ecclesiastes does not give license for mindless pleasure-seeking, but rather affirms that our hard work should be balanced with time for relaxation and enjoyment with friends and family. Saints and mystics have long touted the need for rest and renewal. In the monastic tradition it's referred to as *otium sanctum* – Holy Leisure. Not just wasting our free time, but using it for renewal. As steward/disciples, we aim to use our leisure time wisely. Here are some ideas:



Keep the Sabbath: God actually *commands* us to stop working one day per week, as Exodus 20:8-11 makes clear. But there is no prohibition against leisure. (Why else would God give us a day off?)

Plan your vacation: Even if you're taking a STAYcation, *plan* your time for maximum rest and enjoyment.

Manage your schedule: Are you a slave to your appointment book, driven by *other people's* priorities? Put yourself first – scheduling in time for leisure. Even if it's just 30 minutes here and there!

Find an activity you like: What do you do just for you? Discover – or REdiscover – what brings you joy, then make time to do it.

Socialize: Friends and family make life enjoyable. Spend time with them.

Invest, don't waste, time: Many activities pass the time but don't give back much in renewal or refreshment. Choose activities wisely.

God expects us to work, but not work ourselves to death. Sabbath and leisure time provide means for us to find balance in our life, as well as friendship, love, renewal and purpose.

—Rob Blezard

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IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

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

Friends of the congregation: Michael Basta, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Joshua Buck, Mitch Burkhart, Cindy Denby, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Nicole F., Dennis Grof, Jason Grof, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Debra Kenny, Barry Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Johnathan Naugle, Ruth Ramsey, Lexi Recke, Tierney Schmeer, Patricia Sigfried, Thomas Spraut, Robert Taylor, Jacqi Wagner, Family and friends of Robert Warmkessel, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

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

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, David Jenkins, Janis Kershner, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, the Spatz Family, and Leah Wiest.

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY

In addition to food donations, please consider a generous monetary donation. You can make out a check to **“Brandywine Food Pantry,” and mail it to Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 122 W. Franklin Street, Tipton, PA, 19562.**

Donated items most helpful right now: pancake mix, breakfast cereal, coffee, fruit juice (all kinds), sugar, flour, spaghetti sauce, beef stew, soup (all kinds), mayonnaise, ketchup, canned meat (tuna and/or chicken breast), instant rice, pasta sides, ramen noodles, hamburger helper, snacks of all kinds (chips, cookies, pretzels, pudding, etc.), shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper products (tissues, paper towels, toilet paper).

The pantry is always in need of the following items:

Canned fruits: pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cup, or pineapples, etc.

Canned vegetables: kidney beans, beets, creamed corn, baked beans, pork and beans, sweet peas, carrots, and yams

Canned goods: Chef Boyardee-style canned foods, chili, tomatoes, tomato sauce, ham, Spam, etc.

Condiments: cooking oil, vinegar, pickles, salad dressings

Drinks: hot or cold tea, water

Extra: jelly, peanut butter, marshmallow fluff

Dry goods: Rice-a-Roni

Baking items: cake or brownie mix, frosting

Breakfast food: instant oatmeal, pancake syrup, pop-tarts

Paper products: tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

Personal care items: bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, and hairbrushes

Cleaning and disinfectant products: dish soap

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

Please check dates on donated food products.

The pantry is open to area residents by appointment on the first three Tuesdays of the month and the third Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. For appointments, call 610-682-7633. Call either Tuesday or Thursday or leave a message with your contact information.

Donations may be dropped off during pantry hours noted above or call to arrange a convenient time.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

It is hard to believe that it is almost six years since the food pantry moved into St. Peter’s. We are supported by local churches, civic groups, community organizations, businesses, schools, and individuals. Because of each and every one of you we have been able to continue this worthwhile ministry.

We would like to take this time to give you an update on what your kindness and generosity from the monetary donations that you have given us in the past few months have provided to the pantry: we purchased a new sturdy, aluminum ramp to replace the warped, wooden ramp. In addition to the ramp we were able to purchase a new utility cart and a new shopping cart; this will help the few patrons that we have that walk their groceries back to their homes.

In 2020, the food donations were so generous that we were able to purchase extra laundry detergent and coffee with the monetary donations than what we normally do. In addition, because of the generous monetary donations given this past year, we were able to purchase and provide 75 \$50.00 grocery gift cards to our patrons during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

We also were able to give the patrons who wanted one, a turkey, due to the generosity of a local business. Furthermore, we were able to offer turkey BBQ due to the generosity of Christ DeLong Church Ladies Aid and chicken corn noodle soup and vegetable beef soup due to the generosity of our host church, St. Peter’s UCC.

Although there are patrons who no longer need the pantry, just since the beginning of this year; we have had 5 new patrons join. As of this newsletter, we have 35 households with a total of 104 individuals that use the food pantry.

Here we are halfway through the year already, it is hard to believe! We are getting ready to allow people in the pantry without masks if they are fully vaccinated but are still asking them to use hand sanitizer or wear gloves.

During the month of April, we had 18 households with 47 individuals visit the pantry. In May, we had 20 households with 54 individuals, and in June we had 20 households with a total of 56 individuals.

We are forever grateful for the volunteers, the donors, and all who have helped us and continue to help us to keep this ministry going.

Thank you so much for caring! We could not have done it without you!

FAITHFUL ; followers

Play these fun variations on Follow the Leader — and remember to follow Jesus wherever you go!

What you need:

- Bean bags
- Tables, chairs, pillows
- Painter's tape

What you do:

Players line up behind the Leader, who moves around in various ways. Followers must copy the Leader's movements faithfully. Try these variations:

1. Players must balance a bean bag on their head as they follow the Leader.
2. Set up an obstacle course, and follow the Leader by crawling under tables and chairs, hopping over pillows and so on.
3. With tape, make zigzags and curves on the floor. Then follow the Leader as if walking on a tightrope.
4. The Leader designates types of terrain to imagine, such as mud, snow, ice and a mountain.
5. Also try animal movements, mirrored movements and dancing movements.

PUZZLE



No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.



Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ bear | 9. ___ monkey | A. fry | I. hatchling |
| 2. ___ frog | 10. ___ platypus | B. fawn | K. foal |
| 3. ___ owl | 11. ___ alligator | C. gosling | L. owlet |
| 4. ___ horse | 12. ___ giraffe | D. cub | M. puggle |
| 5. ___ kangaroo | 13. ___ goose | E. kid | N. joey |
| 6. ___ deer | 14. ___ swan | F. cygnet | O. polliwog |
| 7. ___ goat | 15. ___ dog | G. infant | P. puppy |
| 8. ___ fish | | H. calf | |

“_on’t let any__ne __oo__ down o__ you __ecaus__
 you __re youn__, but set an exa__ple for the bel__evers
 in spec__, in __onduct, in love, in __aith and in __urity.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answer: D, O, L, K, N, B, E, A, G, M, I, H, C, F, P

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

It's Finally Here! MinLab 2021

We are a church in three expression. The ELCA is made up of congregations, synods, and the churchwide expression. This gives us unique resources we wouldn't be able to access if we were simply unaffiliated Lutheran congregations.

Before COVID-19 wreaked havoc on "normal" we gathered yearly, in person for our synod assembly. At synod assembly, we conducted the business of our church, see familiar or new faces from all over our territory, and share with one another our ministries. We set up poster boards that allowed churches and organizations to share what they're doing, to inspire others to act, and to serve as a witness to the gospel, the good news of God in Christ.

Last year and this year have been different... a divergence from what is "normal"... a step away from our comfort zones. One thing was clear, we longed to gather together in



Bishop's Message August 2021: **Bread for This Journey** By Bishop Christopher deForest

What a difference a year makes. This year, we are journeying through the Gospel of Mark in our lectionary cycle. Mark is shorter than the other Gospels, so the lectionary adds bits from other Gospels, especially John. So this late summer, in many of our churches, we get these 5 weeks in a row (from July 25-August 22) from John chapter 6. This chapter tells a single interconnected story about Jesus showing and telling us what he means when he says: "I am the Bread of Life."

Pastors often get to this stretch every three years, and ask: "How do I preach on the same thing for 5 weeks?" Perhaps they turn to the other texts, or forego using the lectionary entirely for this period. Those are all fine choices. However, this time around, this summer, things are so different. The vaccines have brought us to safer places. And for many of us, the necessity of suspending Holy Communion for a time, or

person. MinLab seeks to fulfill that desire and to allow God's people to share their witness and ministry with one another.

At this outdoor ministry laboratory, we are inviting congregations and organizations from across our Synod (and beyond!) to show and share how they have been "growing young and vital" - even in the midst of the pandemic. **How has your church been able to: heal the hurt, engage the stranger, and love the land?** Learn new ideas to take home and try. Show and tell others about the "vital signs" you've seen "growing" in your midst through God's grace, love and care in your community.

Cafe Esperanza will be showcasing their Pay-what-you-can ministry with light breakfast items, coffee, and other refreshments. **Bear Creek Camp** counselors and staff will be in attendance to share their stories of God's work in the life of young people through outdoor ministry. The YoYoFa team will be working and to showcase ministries that exemplify the six characteristics of **Growing Young**. And so much more!!!

Join us on August 14, 10am-3pm at the Lutheran Center (2354 Grove Rd.) Register on the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/minlab21/> which also have a plethora of information for you to engage and share with your community.

at least changing our practices around the sacrament, have perhaps made us appreciate the gift of Lord's Supper all the more.

In the midst of this story about bread, in John's chapter 6 we also get the story of the storm at sea, and Jesus walking on the water. We also hear John's version of the feeding of the 5000. In both cases, it is **Jesus coming to us**: finding us in the storm, feeding us in our fear, and leading us to a new shore.

Once again - do we not encounter these stories with different eyes and ears, different hearts and minds, here in late summer of 2021? Our feelings are so mixed: lament, grief, need, concern - yet also relief, thankfulness, joy, even hope? And do we not have increased capacity, to see and understand the struggles of others around us? Have we not developed more compassion and stamina to deal with the higher, deeper, wider and longer-term challenges facing our world, our nation, our synod?

What makes me most grateful, most motivated, and most hopeful about what we learned through the pandemic, and where it has placed us today - is that we are still together. We have stayed together. And we can now begin to more safely gather together and work together, using new tools (like technology) with new strengths, new perspectives, and new perseverance.

This late summer, into this fall, there will be several gatherings happening, to work together on big problems. Our whole synod, for MinLab on August 14; our Ministry Teams on August 22; our retired pastors and deacons with me throughout September; and our clergy in November for Bishop's Conference - to name just a few. Our challenges are many; time is always tight; there's always a lot to take care of. But in our homes, our workplaces, our congregations and schools - God is here. The Spirit is in us and with us. And Christ meets us and goes out ahead of us - giving us all that we need: safe harbor; eternal life; and his body and blood, his very life - true Bread from Heaven and bread for this particular journey. Holy God, lead us and let us travel well and traverse far, together! Amen!

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am-Outdoor Worship in Bowers Park 6:30pm-8:15pm-VBS, St. Paul's, Mertztown</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm-Camp Noah, Oley Fairgrounds 11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 6:30pm-8:15pm-VBS, St. Paul's, Mertztown</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm-Camp Noah, Oley Fairgrounds 11:am-Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:30pm-8:15pm-VBS, St. Paul's, Mertztown</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm-Camp Noah, Oley Fairgrounds 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 6:30pm-8:15pm-VBS, St. Paul's, Mertztown</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm-Camp Noah, Oley Fairgrounds 10:00am-Coloring Group 6:30pm-8:15pm-VBS, St. Paul's, Mertztown</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm-Camp Noah, Oley Fairgrounds 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am-Sausage Sandwich Sale, Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers</p>
<p>8</p> <p>11th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom Pastor Ruth out of town until August 15</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am-11:00am- Super Saturday Virtual Workshop</p>
<p>15</p> <p>12th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in the building Pastor Richard Bardo – supply pastor NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 3:00pm-Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm-Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:30am-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon (location TBD) 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>13th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot / Backpack "Sunday" (Blessing of the Backpacks)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>14th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study via Zoom 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>31</p>				