

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

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.)*



Spruce Tree Terrace, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

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.*

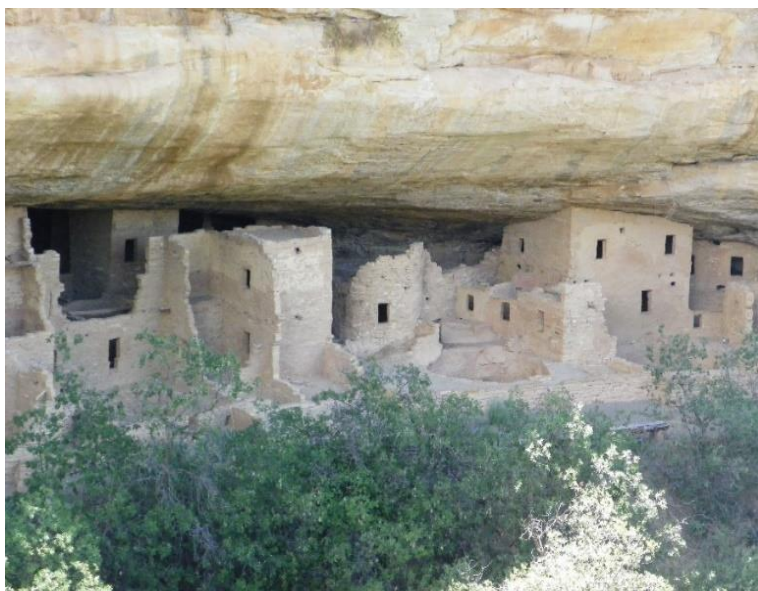


As you come to him, the living Stone —rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house. . . . – 1 Peter 2:4-5a

Dear Friends,

Rick and I just returned from a trip to Colorado where we explored numerous sites with the remains of houses our nation's native American ancestors built, built out of stones. The picture on the cover is an example of cliff dwellings. In my heart it pairs well with this verse from 1 Peter. Living Stones - God has created us to be like living stones. In fact, God has created us to be like *the* Living Stone, Jesus. (I'm reminded of the verse from the hymn *Built on a Rock* that starts, "We are God's house of living stones, built for God's own habitation"). I especially like the cover picture because it shows the buildings in the shelter of the cliff. We, too, as individuals and the church local and universal, are sheltered by God.

In this second picture, taken at Aztec Ruins, New Mexico, you can see up close how the ancestors gathered stones and fit them together. Each stone is unique. Not a one is "perfect," yet it is just right for where it is placed. So, too, not a one of us individuals or congregations is perfect. Yet, in God's design, we are just right for where we have been placed. We are what God needs for building God's house. You can also see in the second picture that there is actually a design worked into the wall. The ancestors purposely chose some unusual stones, darker stones, to add visual interest to the outer wall. God, too, livens up God's house by using our uniqueness to bring beauty to God's church and God's world.



In the third picture, a close up of the first, you can see the windows more clearly. Houses need windows so the light can come in and the inhabitants can see out. So, too, we need the windows of scripture, prayer, worship, fellowship, music and the arts to let the Light of the World into our lives, to enable us be *living* stones. Windows also let out the light that is found inside. In the same way we, too, are constructed to let the light of God's love, the source of our light, to shine for others to see. The light shining through our "windows" serves as a beacon of welcome and love, and as a guide for members and strangers, passersby and those on a journey.

Peter's letter continues with a quote from Isaiah 28:16: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." A cornerstone. When people raise buildings in Palestine, they started with one very special stone. That one had to be as close to perfect for its spot as possible because all the building proceeded from that point. All the other stones were stacked against it. If the cornerstone didn't hold, the building would collapse, and, of course, the builder would be shamed for not getting the cornerstone right. Peter uses this image to refer to Jesus, the foundation of our faith that God fulfills God's promises to God's people.

The houses on the ancestral lands in Colorado and New Mexico have held up amazingly well over 1000s of years. However, the inhabitants, the people, moved on. The buildings in these pictures were not made of living stone. The "living stones" moved on and rebuilt "houses," ways and places to dwell, elsewhere. So it is with God's people throughout the ages and even today. Institutions, including churches, develop and adapt to meet changing needs and times. The people of God, as they come to understand themselves as the imperfect creatures through whom God continues to do God's work, come to discern God's call more clearly for their circumstances.

We, as God's people, God's living stones, continue in that process of repair, adaptation, and, when necessary, moving on. We do this because we hear and trust God's promises to build God's kingdom, God's good and gracious, just and still merciful rule, through us. God continues to promise that God loves the world so much, that God loves us so much, that God gave what was most precious to God, God's only Son, Jesus. God gave us Jesus so that all might be brought back into right relationship with God, with other humans and with the whole of creation. May God's many promises encourage us to live as and continue to learn how to be living stones forming a place where God dwells.

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

-Marty Haugen¹

Pastor Ruth

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. – 1 Peter 2:9-10

¹Hymn: "All Are Welcome" ELW #641, v. 1. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, July 18th:

- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, gave an update on our finances.
- The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2023 budget has been scheduled for Sunday, November 13, after worship. We will also observe Stewardship Sunday that morning.
- Council members discussed Chapter 2 of “I Am a Church Member.”
- Council members will be meeting with the council members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton to get to know them.
- Council voted to pursue the possibility of leaders from The Center for Congregational Health meet with members from New Jerusalem as well as other churches in our area to help us clarify our mission, discern our future, and thrive as the body of Christ. This program is being arranged by our synod. Our local congregations are the first ones the synod invited to participate in this project because they know we have been actively pursuing discernment and working together effectively. Our hope is that the meetings can begin this Fall.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, August 15, 7:00 p.m.**

PASTOR RUTH will be taking some time off Wednesday, August 3 until Wednesday, August 10. If you would need pastoral care, please contact Pastor Tom Lang at 215.527.4213.

COLORING GROUP

The next meeting is **Thursday, August 4, at 10:00 a.m.** Friends are welcome. If you can't get to church or don't feel comfortable gathering, pages can be sent to you. If interested, contact Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152).

SAUSAGE SANDWICH SALE

Hope Lutheran Church, 550 Fleetwood Road, Bowers, will be holding a sausage sandwich sale on **Saturday, August 6, beginning at 10:00 a.m. until sold out.** Sandwiches are \$5.00 each (plain, sauce, onions, peppers, or the works).

*Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

-Marty Haugen¹

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COMMUNITY WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Join with folks from 8 area churches for worship and a picnic in Bowers Park on **Sunday, August 7, at 10:30 a.m.** New Jerusalem members are asked to bring chips and snacks. Bring a friend and a lawn chair. In case of rain, the event will be held at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville. We will not be worshipping in our church building this particular Sunday.

FAITH FORMATION SATURDAYS – THE FAMILY TREE OF CHRISTIANITY: Saturday, August 13, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (online)

Non-Christians are sometimes confused by the wide variety of Christian denominations. Catholics don't always realize that all Protestants are not the same. In this workshop we will give an overview of the different “branches” of the Christian “tree”, connecting them to their historical roots and comparing some of their main differences in theological emphases and worship practices. The Rev. Roger E. Timm will present. To register, contact Laurie Christman at the synod office at 610. 266.5101 or click on the link below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

We invite you to join us for Communion on the Parking Lot on **Saturday, August 20, at 5:00 p.m.**

Immediately following our worship service, we will join together for a potluck picnic and campfire. If the weather appears questionable, we will meet in the church building.



BACKPACK SUNDAY – Sunday, August 21

Students and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks, laptops, etc. to be blessed during the worship service.



SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the September newsletter is **Sunday, August 21**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

*Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

-Marty Haugen¹

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HARVEST HOME – Sunday, August 28

We will be holding our Harvest Home service on Sunday, August 28th. We invite you to share your bountiful harvest with us by bringing in fresh produce from your gardens or any non-perishables you would like to donate to the Brandywine Food Pantry.



LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES SINGLE DAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Lutheran Disaster Response Eastern Pennsylvania, a program of Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS) continues to help our neighbors in the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia recover after damage from Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020. Volunteers with general construction or carpentry skills and those 18+ years old willing to learn, are needed to help rebuild residential homes (insulation, flooring, painting, framing, taping, etc.) Three opportunities to help are offered on Saturday, August 6, Wednesday, September 14, and Thursday, September 15. Registration is required. To register or for more information, contact Sharon Sgriccia at isaiasrecoveryvolunteers@gmail.com. Please spread the word.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Monday morning group is taking a break for the summer. We plan to start up again in September. We're taking suggestions for what to study next as well as other times a study group might meet.

CHRISTMAS
in July 
(AND AUGUST)

The Lutheran Home at Topton is collecting items for our residents for this holiday season. They are collecting body wash, deodorant, body lotion and aftershave lotion. You can bring items to our church or to the reception areas of the Henry Health Center. Just a small act of kindness could mean a lot for one of their residents.

WALKING/HIKING GROUP

A walking/hiking group was started by the Ministries with Seniors group and is open to anyone who wants to participate. They usually meet at 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays at the Brandywine Community Library parking lot for a 1- to 2-mile hike on the Lutheran Home hiking trails. It is suggested to wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, good walking shoes, and bring a hiking stick if you have one. To Join and check on the date or ask questions, contact Jim Kwiatkowski at 484.226.6232, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton.

COMING SOON



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS

- Bluegrass Service/Concert at Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, September 4, 10:30 a.m.
- Blue Mountain Chorus, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown, September 11, 2:00 p.m.
- Breakfast for Firefighters, New Jerusalem, October 1
- Campfire with Scouts, New Jerusalem, October 15
- Dedication of Restored Bells, Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, November 5
- Game Night and Potluck Supper, New Jerusalem, November 12

*Let us build a house where all are named,
 their songs and visions heard
 and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
 as words within the Word.
 Built of tears and cries and laughter,
 prayers of faith and songs of grace,
 let this house proclaim from floor to rafters:
 All are welcome, all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.*

-Marty Haugen¹


 IN OUR

Thoughts and Prayers

Hymn: "All Are Welcome" ELW #641, v. 4. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text © 1994
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WELCOME OUR NEW CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Logan and Carson Seip have begun their confirmation studies. Please congratulate, pray for, and encourage them as they grow in faith. Look for them as they begin to assist more in worship. They've already started learning the commandments—so don't be afraid to ask them to tell you one or two.



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



- 9 Jeff and Dawn Wengert (25 years)
- 15 David and Diana Moyer (24 years)
- 18 Marlowe and Brenda Greis (38 years)
- 19 Rick and Pastor Ruth Doty (50 years)
- 23 Kenneth and Cheryl Wiltrout (47 years)

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members: Holly Allen, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Rodney Keller, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace Rothermel, and Gabriele Sanders.

Friends of the congregation: Charlie Ackerman, John Arndt, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Earl Derr, Katie Didyoung, Rosemary Drey, John Drumheller, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Chelsea H., Peg H., Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, DeeDee K., Debra Kenny, Taz Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Harry Naugle, Johnathan Naugle, Randy Schlegel, Willow Schlegel, Tierney Schmeer, Diane Showalter, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Sptaz, Family and friends of Donald Sweimler, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Raymond Wright, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Gabby, Jason, 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, Ella Loose, Michelle Meck, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.



WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS

Altar Flower Sponsors:

August 7 – Outdoor Worship in Bowers Park
August 14 – *sponsor needed*
August 21 – *sponsor needed*
August 28 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors:

August 7 – Outdoor Worship in Bowers Park
August 14 – *sponsor needed*
August 21 – *sponsor needed*
August 28 – Virginia Guinther

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:

Dale Schwoyer

Children's Bulletin Sponsor:

Tara Basta

Altar Guild Volunteer(s):

Sara Jane Beshore

Communion Bread Sponsor:

August 14 – Gladys Kline

Communion Set-up Volunteer:

August 14 – Sara Jane Beshore

Readers for August:

August 7 – Outdoor Worship at Bowers Park
August 14 – Ken Keck
August 21 – Ted Eshbach
August 28 – Ty Rissmiller

STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR WHOLE LIFE

Before you read further, stop and list the top five things you value most in life? Then rank them by importance. Go!

All done?

If you're like most people, your top-five list includes family, health, time, God, friends, job, home or community. Does money even show up? For many of us, it doesn't, and yet most of church talk about "stewardship" involves how we use our gifts of money.

Yes, we are "stewards," or caretakers of the material wealth with which God has blessed us, but we are also responsible for nourishing and cherishing all the OTHER blessings that God has put into our lives. That goes especially for the things we value most.

Now refer back to your top-five list. For each, consider these questions:

- Why is this item in the top five?
- How well am I caring for this?
- Am I treating it as one of the most valuable items in my life? Why or why not?
- How could I care even more for this item?
- How would God want me to care for this, and why?
- How would my life change if I really cherished and nourished this gift?

When we are good stewards of all the blessings and opportunities God gives us, we open our lives to the full joy and potential that God intends for us. How can you be a better steward of what God has given you?

--Rob Blezard

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*Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

-Marty Haugen¹

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FOLLOWERS OF "THE WAY"

As we mentioned in June, Lutheran Pastor Peggy Hahn reminds us that we who are followers of Jesus, followers of "The Way," are followers of a *movement*. She goes on to remind us that when it comes to caring about people:

- "A movement knows itself well enough, on most days, to realize diversity, equity and inclusion makes it stronger, and takes a chance by listening to people who think differently."
- A movement will speak out about bad behavior and take a stand for things that matter rather than resisting being seen as too political.
- "A movement asks for forgiveness when relationships are broken, when we disappoint each other, or when the experiment we tried didn't work out."

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

June 30, 2022

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 17,765.92
Thrivent	9,612.24
Checking	4,407.73
Youth	408.64
Fidelity	48,355.69
Cash Reserve	39,419.63
Mission Investment Fund	11,643.37
Local Care	<u>2,340.31</u>

Total: \$ 133,953.53

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **June 30, 2021** \$ 157,807.86

June 2022 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

		Income	
Income	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating	\$ 9,891.25	\$ 13,650.00	\$ 3,758.75
Expenses			

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

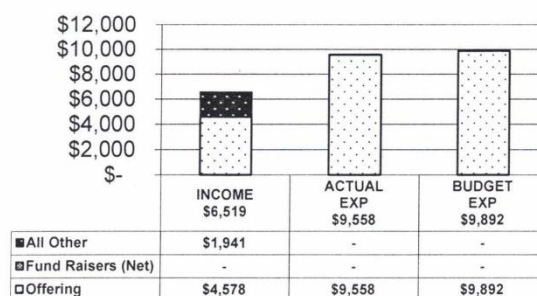
LOOKING FOR A “FUR”EVER HOME

Tanya Bennecoff needs help rehoming 4 elderly cats which belonged to her parents. Three are female, one is male, and all are over 15 years old. They’ve only been inside cats, have lived together for years, but never been with other animals. She would like to place them in pairs. Tanya is willing to help with the cost of food, litter, etc. and willing to drive them wherever they need to go. She has had their names on a wait list for a no-kill shelter for many months. Contact Tanya at 484.824.4618.

LOOKING UP

World-renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawking (1942-2018) stated: “Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.” His sentiment is especially fitting for August, when many people try to count the falling stars of the Perseid meteor

JUNE 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE



MONTHLY AVERAGE

CALENDAR YEAR 2022 INFORMATION NORMAL OPERATIONS (DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)

INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY JUNE 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE		
	Jun Y-T-D	Average Month
Income		
Offering	\$ 27,469	\$ 4,578
Fund Raisers	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 11,648	\$ 1,941
Total Income	\$ 39,117	\$ 6,519
Actual Exp		
Actual Exp	\$ 57,350	\$ 9,558
Budget Exp	\$ 59,349	\$ 9,892
Shortage *	\$ (20,232)	\$ (3,372)

*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2022 BUDGET Expense
Less Benevolence

shower. According to NASA, the evenings of August 12 and 13 will be a great opportunity for skywatchers to catch the show.

As a self-proclaimed atheist, Hawking relied on science to answer “what makes the universe exist.” Yet many Christians believe that while science shows how things happen or were created, our faith tells who made them so.

Deuteronomy 4:19 (NIV) declares: “And when you look up to the sky and see ... the heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshipping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.” We can be grateful for the work of scientists and the wonders their study reveals, but instead of “bowing down” to nature, we worship its Creator and Ruler — the Lord of heaven and earth.



REPORT FROM “CHEW ON THIS” – THE TOP 10 SCAMS SENIORS FACE



The first meeting of “Chew on This,” a lunch and learn event sponsored by Ministries with Seniors, was held at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church on July 14th. Dave Shallcross, Director of Senior Protection with the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s office (standing far left) did a great job of educating folks. Our thanks to Representative Ryan Mackenzie and Pastor Marty Milne for helping arrange this.

Here are the scams, listed in descending order:

#10. Tech Repair

If you get a note on your computer that something needs to be fixed, along with a link to fix it, don’t click the link. “Verify before you comply.”

#9. Sweetheart Swindle (“Catphishing”)

You meet someone on social media, find out you have so much in common, “fall in love,” and they lure you into a private chat, so your friends and family can’t warn you. Next, they offer to meet, but, oh, by the way, they need funds for a need or to travel, etc. You got it. It’s fake and eventually you have a broken heart.

#8. Investment

“Have I got a deal for you!” If it’s too good to be true. . . . – Those using this scam infiltrate organizations, get to know folks personally, then whisper the news about an investment they aren’t going to tell anyone else about. It’s called “affinity fraud.”

#7. Front Door Fraud

Someone official looking might say there is an emergency and need entrance to your house. Verify before you comply. Call 911. That operator will know whether there is an emergency. Also, did you know that many townships require a permit for any solicitations?

#6. Online Shopping Sites

If they ask you to hit a link, don’t. There are also fake delivery notifications going around. Don’t click the link. Check your original orders to see whether there is a problem.

#5. Charities

Check whether they are legitimate through:

- a) Dept of State Bureau of Charities
- b) Contacting the real charity for get last year’s report.

Did you know the average commission telephone solicitors get is 75-85%?

#4. Government or Banking Impersonator

The IRS will never call you. They must send 3 official letters before taking any action against you. Banks have similar policies. Never give out any personal info over the phone. Also, your mother’s maiden name is no longer a good security question. That can be found on things like Ancestry.com.

#3. Health Care

These scammers can find info. about one of your prescriptions by going through the trash at your house or outside a pharmacy. They call and say there was a computer problem, reference one of the meds you are taking, and ask for personal info to update their “system.” Never throw out a pill bottle with your info on the outside. Also, hold on to the bag, etc. the pharmacy gives you until you can shred it at home.

#2. Sweepstakes

First of all, you have to play to win. Second, legitimate sweepstakes like Publishers’ Clearinghouse and Readers’ Digest do, literally send someone to the house or send a notification of winnings by overnight express package.

Drum roll...

#1. The Grandparent Scam

The call out of the blue: “Grandma, I’m in trouble and I need money for (something horrific or to get out of trouble.) Call the person on their actual phone or, better yet, call someone who knows this grandchild and ask what’s going on. Likely, nothing. Never send money.

Final reminder: *The large print giveth.*

The small print taketh away.

Be sure to read before you sign anything.

Superior BANANA SPLIT

Fruit and yogurt combine for this healthy take on a sweet treat.



What you need:

- Bananas
- Plain Greek yogurt
- Assorted berries and fruit
- Granola
- Honey

What you do:

1. Using a butter knife, split the banana in half length-wise. Lay the halves open in a bowl.
2. Add several dollops of yogurt atop the banana halves.
3. Arrange other fruit, such as berries and grapes.
4. Top the banana split with a sprinkle of granola and a drizzle of honey. Enjoy!

PUZZLE

Fruit or false



Spotting true fruits can be tricky. Thankfully, it's much easier to spot the fruit of the Spirit.



Directions: Determine whether each item is a fruit or vegetable and circle the correct letter. Then insert the letters in order below to complete the verses.

	Fruit	Vegetable		Fruit	Vegetable
Apple	V	P	Pepper	O	U
Carrot	E	O	Spinach	R	S
Tomato	Y	R	Watermelon	H	P
Grape	C	F	Broccoli	G	N
Eggplant	T	D	Pumpkin	T	Y
Celery	I	N	Pear	F	C
Banana	K	M	Asparagus	L	R
Cucumber	N	W			

But the fruit of the Spirit is lo__e, j__ __, pea__e,
 pa__ie__ce, __ind__ess, go__dne__s,
 fait__ful__ess, gen__leness, sel__-cont__ol.

GALATIANS 5:22-23, ESV

Answer: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Mission

*STRONGER
together*

Bear
Creek

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18-19)

The verse above centers the theme of Bear Creek Camp for its Summer 2022 season: "Wild Abundance." Whenever I get to visit the Camp - which is the geographically largest camp in the ELCA Outdoor Ministry system - I am always struck with how big God's blessings are to us, and for us. The "Wild Abundance" of BCC also points to the whole point of God's abundant grace and gifts: we are blessed to be a blessing. God gives, without conditions, so that we may give the same way, and share joy and life, in an unlimited and everlasting spiral - reaching down to those in need, reaching up towards forgiveness and strength from God, who out of love for us and for Christ's sake promises to raise us all. So we give, to Mission Support - to bless ministries like BCC, so they may bless all who come to them, with God's Wild Abundance. + Bishop Christopher deForest



The Summer of 2021 at Bear Creek Camp was one of rediscovery of much of what had put on hold in 2020 and one of reinvention of new ways to live out our calling of building community and individuals while exploring, celebrating, and growing in God's creation. As we look forward to continuing to build on this foundation in for Summer Camp in 2022, we reflect back on one of the most powerful moments of returning to camp in 2021.

The first Sunday night of this past summer's Session One after a tasty dinner of spaghetti and meatballs, all the campers gathered together as a large group for the very first time around the bonfire circle. While learning and singing songs, the woods once again fully echoed with the glee of campers returning to this place so many call their second home. Near the midpoint of that first gathering, there was a quiet moment of pause. Looking around the circle, summer staff were in their brand-new teal tee-shirts keeping their heads on a swivel making sure their campers were all okay. Two campers that hadn't seen each other since camp two years prior held hands in that way only best camp friends do. Nervous first-time campers reacted every time a hemlock log would pop in the fire shooting sparks high up in the sky. This small moment in time was the manifestation of all the work our community had done over the past two years came to fruition; all the supporters that it took to get to that point of sharing in God's love as a community around a simple campfire.

Everything we do at camp throughout the year is building to moments like those opening bonfires. Whether facilities projects, summer staff salaries, food purchases or camperships - every resource we steward is moving us towards living into our shared mission. With your generous individual and congregational gifts and Mission Support throughout this past year and prayerfully continuing into the future, we look forward to further building the BCC community and welcoming all to experience the power of God within this place. + Collin Grooms, Executive Director

Bear Creek Camp seeks to provide a place apart: to live and grow in God's creation. Your mission support allows campers and staff to experience God in a new way. Campers discover young adult role models, and staff put their faith into action. In fact, the majority of seminarians cite outdoor ministry as key to their vocation story. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support! It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission.

Find synod news
and events at
godslove.org



AUGUST 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Betty Musser	2 The Musser Family	3 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Irene Noll Pastor Ruth – flex time	4 10:00am-Coloring Group The Rissmiller Family Pastor Ruth – flex time	5 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Horace Rothermel Pastor Ruth – flex time	6 10:00am-Sausage Sandwich Sale, Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers Pastor Ruth – flex time
7 8th Sunday of after Pentecost 10:30am-Community Outdoor Worship and picnic at Bowers Park (In case of rain, held at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville) Pastor Ruth – flex time	8 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Gabriele Sanders Pastor Ruth – flex time	9 Dale Schwoyer Pastor Ruth – flex time	10 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Elaine Seip Pastor Ruth – flex time	11 The Seip Family	12 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Vikie Seyfert	13 10:00am-12:00pm- Faith Formation Saturday (online)
14 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship	15 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting Darla Stout	16 Kevin Stump	17 12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Julian Tich	18 Dorothy Turner	19 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Brenda Wagaman	20 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot ▪ Potluck picnic and campfire held after worship
21 10th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship ▪ Backpack Sunday NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Todd Wagaman	23 The Wartzluft Family	24 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. The Wengert Family	25 Kenneth and Cheryl Wiltout	26 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Mark Zeleznick	27
28 11th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship ▪ Harvest Home Sunday ▪ Fellowship after worship	29 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. The Allen Family	30 Anna Angstadt	31 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Myles Angstadt			