

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

SECRETARY HOURS:

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



THE MISSION OF NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

*We are a group of people who
gather together in friendship and love
to worship God, to spread God's Word,
and to care for God's people.*



Dear Partners in Ministry,

When my son Matthew was in high school, he participated in a production of the musical *All That Jazz*. One of the songs is "Everything Old is New Again" and a refrain says, "Don't throw the past away. You might need it some rainy day. Dreams can come true when everything old is new again." (Peter Allen)

This past Sunday, we contemplated the story of Jacob fleeing from the anger of his brother and journeying into the unknown, to the land of his ancestors where he hoped to take refuge with an uncle he had never met. While enroute, Jacob had that dream about the angels going up and down the ladder. We noted how, in the time of Jacob's distress, God made God's presence known to Jacob and assured him that God would never leave him. In fact, God said, God had great things in store for Jacob and his descendants.

Many of you know that as a part of discerning our future as a congregation we have been looking through old documents, trying to reconstruct the history of this congregation. What we have discovered so far is:

When the congregation was founded in 1840, it was founded as a Lutheran congregation, but it was expressly stated that the hope was that when they built their church, the Reformed congregation in the area would find that a place to worship as well. This congregation was founded with a dedication to cooperative ministry.

In 1916 when it was determined that the building erected in 1840 was beyond repair, the Lutherans and Reformed congregations were determined to work together in the process and carefully drew up articles of agreement to make that a reality. Included were plans for what would happen if the Reformed congregation decided to leave the agreement or the Lutheran congregation closed. I'm sure that forming that agreement and then building the church took a lot of work and collective wisdom, a lot of give and take.

At some point (probably around 1905) the Lutheran congregations of Shamrock Station (Longswamp), Huff's, Bowers, and New Jerusalem formed a parish, with all four congregations served by Pastor Bond. This lasted for many years. By 1969 there were still 3 congregations working together. Later this became the Huff's and New Jerusalem Lutheran Parish. We haven't yet put a date on when New Jerusalem was no longer a part of this parish. The point is, our congregation has a long history and legacy of cooperative ministry.

Now our congregation is at the point where we no longer have the people power and finances to support maintenance of our building *and* ministry as we have been doing it. The task, therefore, is to discern where God is leading us. Is it simply to close, while helping members to join another congregation? Is it to become more specifically involved in cooperative ministry? (Remember, everything old may be new again. This congregation has a legacy of cooperative ministry.) If we get involved in cooperative ministry, what might that look like and what steps do we need to take to make that happen? What about the building? While it is beautiful and very functional, it also takes a lot of work and is expensive to maintain. Given what we can foresee, we need to make decisions and make things happen within the next 18 months.

Now, before we panic, let's go back to that story of Jacob and the dream about the ladder. (Genesis 28:10-19) First of all, when Jacob was uncertain and afraid, God made God's presence known. Secondly, God promised to not only be with Jacob and to keep Jacob safe wherever he went but pushed him into thinking positively about the future. "I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised." There's a reason we read these old stories over and over. We need to hear God's promises as also meant for us.

But what has God promised? God has promised that God will not give up working until all the world knows God's love *and* God has promised that we have a part to play in making that happen. Our lesson from Romans this week put it this way, "God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!... And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance." (Romans 8:14-16, *The Message*)

Lest we get discouraged, Paul also reminds us (vs. 17), "We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through hard times with him, then we are certainly going to go through good times with him."

So, what shall we do?

1. Brainstorm. We need the ideas and dreams, no matter how crazy they may sound, of each and every member. And we need to consider these, not shoot them down immediately because they sound impossible or we don't like them.
2. Identify and celebrate our riches, what we have to offer, rather than engage in a scarcity mentality.
3. Exercise patience, try to understand that, even though we do need to focus and make a concentrated effort to move forward, this is a process and will take time.
4. Be willing to experiment and if something doesn't work out, count it as a learning experience, not a failure.
5. Support one another. Be careful that our sadness, uncertainty, and frustrations not be expressed as anger toward others.
6. Focus on what *we* can offer to others, not on what we want them to do. We can inquire of and invite others to consider some alternatives, but the focus needs to be on what *we* are willing to do.
7. Remember the law of love: Love for God and for our neighbors as ourselves. This means remembering those who are not able to join us for worship and others who might be affected by our decisions. It involves valuing that each of us is at a different stage on this journey, and many might be feeling grief.
8. Expect to be surprised.

I thank God we are on this journey together. I thank God for the wisdom, hard work and determination of the leaders of this congregation, past and present, and I can't wait to see what's next.

Know you are loved.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, July 10th:

- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, gave an update on the church's finances.
- Pastor Ruth reviewed the progress that was made so far in discerning our future.
- A survey of the church and cemetery property was started on Wednesday, July 12.
- New Jerusalem will be joining with Hope Lutheran, Bowers for their Bluegrass worship service on Sunday, August 27, at 10:30 a.m.
- Pastor Ruth and Cindy Rissmiller have started the task of organizing the church's records (council meeting minutes, records books, etc.)

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, August 14, at 7:00 p.m.**

PASTOR RUTH will be taking some flex time from Wednesday, August 23 until Tuesday, August 29. She will be available by phone if you need to speak with her.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Monday morning Bible Study is on summer hiatus. We plan to start up again in the fall.

COLORING GROUP

The Coloring Group will be meeting on **Thursday, August 3, 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 at 610.682.2423 or Diane Keller at 610.682.4152.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

will be held for youth grades 7 through 12 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown on **Saturday, August 5, at 1:00 p.m.**

COMMUNITY WORSHIP IN THE PARK

On **Sunday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m.** we will be joining along with folks from 8 area churches for worship and a picnic in Bowers Park. 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 on this particular Sunday. New Jerusalem members are asked to provide salads.

COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

Join us on **Saturday, August 12, at 5:00 p.m.** After the worship service, we will gather together with council members from area churches for a picnic.

On **Saturday, September 9**, we will have Blessing of the Animals, and **Saturday, October 14**, we will have a picnic and campfire with the Scouts.

HELPING HARVEST/TOPTON MOBILE MARKET

The Helping Harvest food distribution will take place on **Tuesday, Augusts 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Brandywine Heights MS/IS.

JAMES MEN'S MINISTRY (JMM)

Breakfast gatherings start at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Their next meeting will be held **Saturday, August 19**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton.

BACKPACK SUNDAY – AUGUST 20

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the September newsletter is **Sunday, August 20th**. Please have all articles and announcements submitted to the church office by this date. Thank you!

BLUEGRASS SERVICE/CONCERT

New Jerusalem will join with the members of Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, for their yearly Bluegrass Service on **Sunday, August 27, at 10:30 a.m.** Come out to hear great songs and hymns. Music provided by the talented musicians of the Pines Dinner Theater. Please note we will not be worshipping in our church building on this Sunday. Bring lawn chairs. If there is inclement weather, the service will be held indoors.

HARVEST HOME – SEPTEMBER 10

Please bring fresh produce and non-perishable items to worship. These will be donated to the Brandywine Food Pantry.

LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 275TH ANNIVERSARY DAY

Longswamp UCC, 200 Clay Road, Mertztown, will be celebrating their 275th anniversary of the founding of their congregation in 1748! A big festival is planned for **Sunday, September 24, 2023**. A celebratory worship service will be held at 10:15 a.m. and continue with a celebration from 2:00-5:00 p.m. There will be a basket raffle, historical displays, music, homemade ice cream, horse and buggy rides, cake walks, a bake sale, so much more. There will be old-fashioned fun for the whole family! All are welcome! For more information, contact secretary@longswampucc.org or call 610-682-6230. Also check out their website at www.longswampucc.org.



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Cleon Smith. Cleon was Betty Eshbach's father, who passed away on June 26, 2023. A funeral service was held on July 5, 2023 at Schmoyer Funeral Home, Breinigsville.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of John Arndt. John was Sherrie Carl's father, who passed away on July 1, 2023. A memorial service was held on July 30, 2023 at Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in Alburdis.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Irene D. Noll who passed away on Monday, July 24, 2023. A service honoring Irene's life was held at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church on Friday, July 28.

It's always hard to lose a family member. As we reach out to comfort and support Betty and Sherrie, we ourselves remember the hope in which we live, that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and those who believe in him will not perish but have eternal life.

The church is people—people who pray together, who sing together, who work together, who laugh together in the service of God and others. — *150th Anniversary Booklet of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church*

BACK-TO-SCHOOL HUMOR

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...
... an ice cream man? Sundae school
... a giant? High school
... a surfer? Boarding school
... King Arthur? Knight school

Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Math teacher: A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

Student: In jail!



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION: 2022 IN REVIEW

Last year ELCA World Hunger awarded **436 grants** to partners in **67 countries** and **57 ELCA synods**. In total, **over 3.3 million** people were served through ELCA World Hunger partnerships worldwide.

Lutheran Disaster Response was at work in **42 countries** around the world and **26 states and territories** in the United States and the Caribbean, responding to hurricanes, tornadoes, conflict and migration, the Russia-Ukraine war and more.

New ELCA congregations are taking shape throughout the United States and the Caribbean and in nearly every synod, with **322 "new starts"** currently in development and **33 begun during 2022**. More than **70% of the total new starts are in ethnically diverse communities** and reflect growing diversity in their LGBTQIA+ leadership as well as their younger leaders and participants.

In 2022, **131 long-term missionaries** were at work in **45 countries** around the world, and 24 YAGM volunteers served in four country programs.



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



- 9 Jeff and Dawn Wengert (26 years)
- 15 David and Diana Moyer (25 years)
- 18 Marlowe and Brenda Greis (39 years)
- 19 Rick and Pastor Ruth Doty (51 years)
- 23 Kenneth and Cheryl Wiltrout (48 years)

CHRISTMAS AT SEA: SACHELS FOR SEAFARERS

It's not too early to think about filling those satchels for our seafarers. Here are the things that go in each one. Perhaps you'll see a sale on some of them or be inspired to get back into knitting or crocheting. Items are due the end of October.

- One **Sweatshirt** – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)
- One **T-shirt** (size M-L-XL)
- Three pairs of **Socks** (thermal or gym)
- One **Knitted Winter Cap** (no pastel colors please)
- One **Knitted Cowl**
- One **Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Health Snack Bar**
- A **Holiday or Christmas Card** from YOU!



WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS

Altar Flower Sponsors:

- August 6 – Outdoor Worship in Bower's Park
- August 13 – *sponsor needed*
- August 20 – Tara Basta
- August 27 – Bluegrass Service at Hope, Bowers

Bulletin Sponsors:

- August 6 – Outdoor Worship in Bower's Park
- August 13 – *sponsor needed*
- August 20 – *sponsor needed*
- August 27 – Bluegrass Service at Hope, Bowers

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:

sponsor needed

Altar Guild Volunteer(s):

None needed this month

Communion Bread Sponsor:

- August 6 – Outdoor Worship in Bower's Park

Communion Set-up Volunteer:

- August 6 – Outdoor Worship in Bower's Park

Readers:

- August 6 – Outdoor Worship in Bower's Park
- August 13 – Sara Jane Beshore
- August 20 – Ty Rissmiller
- August 27 – Bluegrass Service at Hope, Bowers

Councilperson(s) for the Month:

Ty Rissmiller and Joshua Keck

God, we are here, with hearts that are open for your spirit to pour into us the dream you have for our world, for our church, for our families, and for ourselves. We are ready for you to show us the way.

We want to walk, even run, into the future but the weight of the past is heavy. Let us be the people who courageously make a step, or even a half-step, forward. Amen.

Creating Space: A Prayer Book for Peace in Times of Crisis and Chaos, 2021 LEAD, www.waytolead.org.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Myles Angstadt, Erma Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Family and friends of Irene Noll, and Gabriele Sanders.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT: Members: Holly Allen, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Brian Keller, Diane Keller, Forrest Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Lloyd Moyer, and Horace Rothermel.

Friends of the congregation: Charlie Ackerman, Family and friends of John Arndt, Brad Auge, Sr., Brad Auge, Jr., Steve Beck, Sharon Bennett, Jason Beshore, Darlene Bogert, Earl Derr, John Drumheller, Jennifer Engle, Alice Epler, Dawson Freed (military), Karen Gossert, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Debra Kenny, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Julia Lombardo, Joe M., Vivian Reist, Arlan Schwoyer, Patricia Sigfried, Family and friends of Cleon Smith, Jean Smith, Shawn Spatz, Michael Stevens, Robert Taylor, Johnathan Wagner, Tim Walck, Leticia Weaver, Richard Weller, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Jason, Kim, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for: peace in the world, and particularly in the Ukraine and eastern Europe; all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters, especially those in Puerto Rico; migrants and refugees; for our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Carrie Bausch, Nancy Bennecoff, Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, Johnson-Agiri Family, Mary Kring, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Tierney Schmeer, Donna Schwoyer, Lesley Wegman, and Linda Wegman.

"I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." – Jeremiah 29:11

DAILY REASONS TO CELEBRATE

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.

If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on—you guessed it—National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.

And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends—National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation—Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter—National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others—on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and for that matter, every day of the year—holiday or not.

Click on the link below to find out more of the other fun and unusual days to celebrate throughout the year.

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/calendar-at-a-glance>.



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

June 30, 2023

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 18,476.20
Thrivent	11,047.97
Checking	1,610.52
Youth	412.76
Fidelity	33,509.61
Cash Reserve	24,426.07
Mission Investment Fund	11,689.91
Local Care	<u>2,395.31</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 103,568.35</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **June 30, 2022** \$ 133,243.91

June 2023 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,860.00	\$ 3,641.71	\$ (6,218.29)

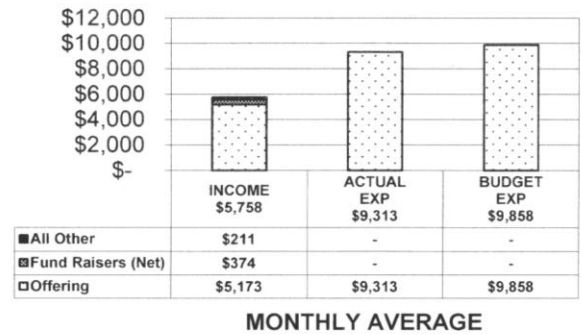
*Income Required per Month — Based on 2023
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

LITTLE GUIDEPOSTS TO PEACE

The following items serve as “little guideposts on the footpath to peace.” According to author and pastor Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933):

- to be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars;
- to be satisfied with your possessions but not content with yourself until you have made the best of them;
- to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice;
- to covet nothing of your neighbor’s except [their] kindness of heart and gentleness of manners;
- to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends and every day of Christ;
- to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God’s out-of-doors.

JUNE 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE



CALENDAR YEAR 2023 INFORMATION NORMAL OPERATIONS (DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)

INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY JUNE 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE			
	Jun Y-T-D	Average Month	
Income			
Offering	\$ 31,041	\$	5,174
Fund Raisers	\$ 2,244	\$	374
Other	\$ 1,269	\$	212
Total Income	\$ 34,554	\$	5,758
Actual Exp			
Actual Exp	\$ 55,879	\$	9,313
Budget Exp	\$ 59,148	\$	9,858
Shortage *	\$ (24,594)	\$	(4,099)

*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2023 BUDGET Expense
Less Benevolence

[The days are coming, says the Lord, when]
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.
²⁹ Even on my servants, both men
and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
(Joel 2:28-29, NIV)

“Learn that God always fulfills [God’s]
promises but does so at a level of greater
complexity than we can easily discern.” –
Timothy Keller in *The Songs of Jesus*, Viking
Press 2015, p.220.

In her monthly column for Living Lutheran, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton addresses the scourge of Christian nationalism in the U.S., calling it “a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy.” She writes, “An element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic.” The ELCA supports [Christians Against Christian Nationalism](#) and encourages you to participate in our civic life so that we might work together for the common good.

WHO IS A “REAL” AMERICAN?

My husband and I live in Skokie, Illinois., a diverse community. Our neighbors to the west are an octogenarian Taiwanese Evangelical couple who regularly order meals from Kosher to Go. Our neighbors to the east are a Ukrainian and Russian multigenerational family. Our grocery stores have both kosher and halal departments. As I drive past the elementary school on my way to work, I see moms and dads in jeans along with women in saris or hijabs and men in thobes or yarmulkes. More than 90 languages are spoken in the homes of our school district. We pay our taxes, mow our (tiny) lawns, worship, raise our children and pretty much get along in our little village of Skokie.

Late one afternoon a few years ago I was finishing up yard work. I had been weeding and trimming all day. I was tired and grass-stained. Just one more pile of leaves needed to be swept up. I noticed a woman walking toward me so I hurried to get the sidewalk cleared. She stopped and told me that she had seen me working all day and thought I might be too tired to prepare supper. She had made a meal for me and my husband. It was during Ramadan—the month when Muslims fast from food and water during the day and engage in prayer and acts of charity. This was her act of charity and generosity. She smiled and walked away. I was stunned.

There has been an alarming rise in hate speech and violence against religious and ethnic minorities in this country. At the same time, we’ve seen an increased polarization among us, even in our dear church. There is a movement to define what it means to be a “real American.” Some would define this as white, Christian and native born. When Lutheran immigrants first came to this country in the 18th and 19th centuries, they weren’t considered real Americans. They didn’t speak English or fit in with the Deist, Calvinist religious majority. They were “other” and therefore suspect. German Lutheran immigrants weren’t considered white when they settled here. Neither were Irish, Italians or Poles. Catholics and Jews were considered an alien threat.

An element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic.

It’s ironic that the Puritans fled religious persecution and that the First Amendment states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free expression thereof,” yet an element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic. There is no doubt that the Founders were Christian and that a majority of Americans identify as Christian. That is different from declaring Christianity as the established religion of the United States. And, dear church, let’s be clear, a Christian Nationalist does not define Lutherans as “Christian.”

God knows I love my country. This beautiful, fragile, yet surprisingly resilient experiment in democracy and nationhood that’s not predicated on shared ethnicity is unique among nations. My grandfather, father and uncles all served during World War I and World War II. I had the honor of placing a wreath on behalf of the ELCA at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. I won’t have my patriotism questioned. Christian Nationalism is a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy. It’s precisely because I love my country that I warn against it.

Who is a “real American”? I say that my Muslim neighbor walking freely down the street in a hijab to offer a meal to her Christian neighbor during Ramadan is a real American. Motivated by her Muslim faith she acted as neighbor to me. She is not less American because she is Muslim. Because she is an American, she can be her authentic self and participate in building our community and country. What binds us together is not ethnicity but shared participation in our civic life springing out of our cultural heritages and working for the common good.



The **Brandywine Food Pantry** is committed to relieving hunger through the acquisition and distribution of food to individuals and families from the Brandywine/Topton area. The Food Pantry is generously supported by the churches, civic groups, schools, businesses, and individuals from our local community.

The **Brandywine Food Pantry** always welcomes donations of non-perishable food, personal care items, household/cleaning supplies, paper products, and monetary donations. The Food Pantry Board voted recently to not purchase paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, etc.), personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, individually wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, bar soap, etc.), household/cleaning supplies (dish detergent, laundry detergent, etc.) so we can concentrate on ordering the food products needed by our patrons. Therefore, we ask that our community members help us by donating paper products, personal care items, and cleaning/household supplies. All donations may be dropped off during Pantry hours (see below) or by calling their new number (**484-861-7117**) to arrange a convenient time. Please make checks payable to **Brandywine Food Pantry** and mail them to the **Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter's UCC, 122 W. Franklin Street, Topton, PA 19562.**

The **Brandywine Food Pantry** is open to area residents by appointment only on the first three Tuesdays and the third Thursday of the month from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (the last appointment is at 12:30 p.m.). We also have evening hours (4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Please call the Food Pantry's new number, **484-861-7117**, to schedule an appointment. Also, please feel free to call the Pantry's new number if you have any questions about the **Brandywine Food Pantry**.

Thank you to the members of the community churches for your continued support of the **Brandywine Food Pantry!**

The Brandywine Food Pantry is always in need of the following items:

Canned fruit: fruit cup, mandarin oranges, sliced peaches, pears, pineapple, etc.

Canned items: (especially those with meat) Beef stew, chicken a la king, chicken breast, chili, ham, Spam, tuna

Condiments: ketchup, mustard, pickles

Hot drinks: coffee (regular), hot chocolate, tea

Extras: jelly, marshmallow creme, peanut butter

Baking items: cooking oil, vinegar

Dry goods: dry milk, evaporated milk

Cereal: Hot or cold, oatmeal (regular and instant)

Gluten free and/or sugar free items

Paper products: paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue

Personal care items: bar soap, hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, personal hygiene items (hairbrushes, combs, individually wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.)

Cleaning and disinfecting products: dish soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant products, etc.)

Paper products, personal care items and cleaning supplies, and disinfectant products are no longer purchased by the Food Pantry. Please consider donating these items.

***** Please check expiration dates on donated food products.**

The Brandywine Food Pantry cannot accept expired food products.

Statistic summary for 2023 (January – June):

2022 Average - 27 families (monthly)

2023 Average - 46 families (monthly)

60% average increase over 2022

2022 Average - 68 people served monthly

2023 Average - 112 people served monthly

60% average increase over 2022

*Thank You
for your support*



Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Whisk eggs with mixer at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!



Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

○ _ _ _ _ _

The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 8:3)

_ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

_ _ ○ _ _ _

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

○ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

_ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _

The heave__s declare the __lory __f __od;
the ski__s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, hosts, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV



YOUR MISSION SUPPORT GIFTS AT WORK

STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

2023 Mission Support Memo

The eHarmony of Prison Reentry

*As you read this story, what questions arise?
How might you share this story with others in your
ministry setting?*

A story from our Grand Canyon Synod

Over 600,000 people are released from prison every year, and as they struggle to rejoin society, they face barriers to connecting with reentry service providers. We are honored that so many of our synods and congregations are active in prison ministry; yet they know the challenge of finding reliable and effective resources to support folks once they've been released.

Our synods are supporting reentry ministry: the Metropolitan Chicago Synod helped start the work and the Grand Canyon Synod has launched the innovative online resource the **Inside Out Network (ION)**, a one-of-a-kind platform that helps returning citizens connect with the support they need for a successful reentry. The Grand Canyon Synod has made a strong commitment, awarding ION an "Adapting, Connecting, Transforming and Sustaining" grant so it can help people access ministries and service providers.

ION is a bit like eHarmony: returning citizens and service providers can find each other and exchange messages, even before release, to make sure returning citizens get the support they need as soon after release as possible. What started as a prison ministry from an ELCA church in the Chicago area is now operating in Illinois and Arizona and launching soon in Oregon, with 6,400 returning citizens and 443 service providers and ministries enrolled. ION is always free to returning citizens, and service providers participate free of charge for a year before paying a modest annual fee.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, ION has gone into Arizona prisons to train staff on using the platform. This has led to inmates enrolling before their release; reports indicate that as release approaches, they are less anxious, seeing ahead of time what help will be available.

ION values its partnerships with ministry and is currently developing a Reentry Congregational Initiative, gathering insights from faith communities that intentionally minister to returning citizens. Many ELCA congregations work in this area, and we welcome any insights they might provide by completing this [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLFWMLS) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLFWMLS>). ION intends to develop a guidebook called "Effective Reentry Ministry for Ordinary Congregations"; its valuable "Spiritual Survival Guide for Prison and Beyond" can be read or downloaded free of charge from the ION website at insideoutnetwork.net/resources.

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	3 10:00am-Coloring Group	4 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	5 1:00pm-Volleyball Tournament at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown
6 <u>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30am-Outdoor Worship and Picnic in Bowers Park 5:00pm-Scout Court of Honor	7 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8	9 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	10 9:30-11:00am- Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton	11 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	12 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot -Picnic afterwards with council members of area churches
13 <u>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Fellowship	14 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Mtg.	15 11:00am-1:00pm-Helping Harvest Food Distribution at Brandywine Heights IS/MS	16 12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon (location TBD) 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17	18 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	19 8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Topton
20 <u>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Backpack Sunday -Fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	22	23 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Pastor – Flex Time	24 Pastor – Flex Time	25 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton Pastor – Flex Time	26 Pastor – Flex Time
27 <u>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30am-Bluegrass Service at Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers Pastor – Flex Time	28 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Pastor – Flex Time	29 Pastor – Flex Time	30 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	31		