

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.



And God,
who searches
the
heart,
knows
what is the
mind of
the Spirit...

ROMANS 8:27, NRSV

THE MISSION OF
NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

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

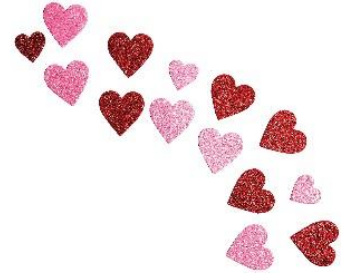


Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Hearts.

As soon as the stores took down Christmas decorations, red hearts appeared everywhere to encourage us to think about Valentine's Day. (By the way, February is also National Heart Awareness Month.)

Saint Valentine. There were a number of priests named Valentine in Rome in the late third century. Here is the legend of one that seems to make some sense of why his name is associated with the exchange of "valentines."



According to Father O'Gara as reported by David Kithcart of the Christian Broadcasting Network, Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome at a time when emperor Claudias the second persecuted the church. Claudias also issued an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died. Valentine worked to encourage couples to marry and to do so within the Christian church, but, because of the edict, he had to marry them in secret. Eventually he was caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against the emperor's command.

The legend continues that while Valentine was in prison, one of the men who was to judge him was named Asterius, who had a daughter who was blind. Supposedly Valentine prayed with and healed the young girl. This amazed Asterius who, himself, then became Christian. However, because of his stand for Christian marriage, Valentine was sentenced to death in 269 AD. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter which was signed, "from your Valentine."

We could say that Valentine had his heart in the right place.

Having one's heart in the right place. How many believers, including those whose names we do not know, have had their hearts in the right place and dared to obey God rather than "the powers that be"? How many have behaved in ways that did not go along with the current culture when they perceived that what the culture was promoting was not in line with God's will? We will never know, but we do know there have been many.

God continually calls us to check the health of our heart. God asks us to do this literally as part of caring for the bodies God has given us. God asks us to engage in exercise that will challenge and strengthen the muscles of our heart. God also asks us to figuratively check the health of our heart, to take time to be honest about how close our relationship is with God, and how well our passions, our efforts, the things we love and promote line up with what God loves and encourages. God asks us to engage in study, thinking and behavior that challenge our assumptions, challenge simply going along with the flow or avoiding something because it might be risky to stand up for what God wants. Like Valentine, God's Spirit is there to help us develop and keep a healthy heart.

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Turn my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Turn my heart, O God, may I be like you.

– Eddie Espinosa, ELW #801

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May you have a lovely and love filled February.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at their January 14th meeting:

- Council voted and approved to have one Christmas Eve service to be held at 7:00 p.m.
- Council voted to increase the price of the shoo-fly pies to \$6.00.
- Guidelines for the use of the church building for funerals, weddings, etc. have been approved by council.

FEBRUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Flower sponsors for February 10, 17, and 24 and Bulletin sponsors for February 10 and 17. Thank you to all who signed up.

FEBRUARY GREETERS SIGN-UP SHEET

Greeters are needed for February 3, 17, and 24. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help. Thank you!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Join us on **Sunday, February 3**, for our Souper Bowl of Caring breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:15 a.m. We will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items to be donated to the Brandywine Food Pantry. A free-will offering will also be taken.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex if you would like to donate any food for the breakfast. Thank you!

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY – February 10, 2019

The Boy Scouts of Troop and Pack 585 will be joining us on **Sunday, February 10**, for Boy Scout Sunday. The scouts will be serving as greeters, readers, and ushers. We hope you can join us in supporting these young men and their leaders. A time of fellowship will follow the worship service.



FAITH FORMATION EVENT – February 10

PASTOR RUTH will be out of town from February 14-22. If you would require pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Althea Albright at 610.374.4343.

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the March 2019 newsletter is **Sunday, February 17**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

UPCOMING BAPTISM

Rejoice with us at the **February 24th** worship service as we celebrate the baptism of Timothy Jarrett Hahn. Jarrett, as he prefers to be called, is the husband of Amy Broussard. They were married at New Jerusalem on October 27th.

ANNUAL MEETING

New Jerusalem's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 24**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual reports from the committees and elect new members to council. A quorum of **25 voting members** is needed. Please invite other members to attend this meeting.

SPRING SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE SALES

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church has selected the following dates for the spring shoo-fly pie bakes: **March 25-27, April 29, 30, May 1, and June 3-5**. For 2019 Church Council has approved an increase for the pies to \$6.00. If you would like to order any pies, please contact the church office.

SEEN IN THE MORNING CALL

I can look at a piece of music and know how it sounds without playing it.

Why can't I look at a piece of shoo-fly pie, knowing how it tastes, without eating it? So much for New Year's resolutions. – Audrey Adam, Springfield Township





We will again be joining together with various churches belonging to the Brandywine Ministerium to celebrate Lent. The theme for this year will be “My Grandfather’s Blessings.” The services begin each **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** Listed below are the dates and locations for the month of March.

- March 6 **Ash Wednesday**
New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Preacher: Pastor Cheryl Meinschein
- March 13 Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers
Preacher: Pastor Cheryl Meinschein
- March 20 Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers
Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty
- March 27 Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
Preacher: Pastor Roger Ulrich

FARM FAMILY APPRECIATION CELEBRATION – Saturday, March 16, 2019
Held from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Dinner buffet 7-8 p.m. Square dance, classic and modern country music by “The Majestics,” with line dance music between sets 8-11 p.m. Hamburg Field House, Exit #30 off I-78. The theme this year is “Sports.” Feel free to support your favorite team by wearing their colors! Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the narthex and are due by Friday, March 1, 2019.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS
Through the generosity of the members of New Jerusalem, 23 ornaments were hung on the Good Gifts tree. Other gifts may have been sent without our knowing it. According to the ornaments, the gifts members gave will provide:

- 5 pigs
- 50 chicks
- 2 roosters
- 3 sets of honeybees
- 3 goats
- 10 fruit tree seedlings
- Vaccinations for 1 child
- Food 1 refugee family
- 1 backpack of food
- School supplies for 1 child



The total value for these gifts is \$510. Thank you to everyone who provided these gifts.

THE \$TOVE FOR OLCHOKI
We have collected over 70% of the cost of providing one stove for Olchoki Primary School in Arusha, Tanzania. Using a \$7,500 loan from Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA), the school was able to obtain 3 stoves and can now offer its 1,500 students one meal a day. A year and a half ago we committed to repaying the loan for one of the stoves. As of early January, New Jerusalem has received \$1,757 toward the stove and forwarded \$1,500 of that to OBA. Only \$743 to go.

MORE GOOD NEWS\$
The \$25,354 we have collected to repay ourselves for repaving the parking lot brings us 68% of the way to the approximately \$37,000 cost for the project.

YOU’VE GOT MAIL
Starting with January 13th and continuing through February our second readings this year are from First Corinthians.

Pastor Paul Lutter reminds us that this time after Epiphany and before Lent “serves an important role in continuing what was introduced during the Christmas season.” The Gospel stories focus “on the means through which God is being made manifest in the world in Jesus Christ.” We hear stories of his baptism, his first miracle of turning water into wine, how he explained his mission to his home folk, the call of his first disciples, healing stories, and his explanation of what it means to be a disciple, what it means to live lives of radical love.

These stories are accompanied by lessons from Paul’s letter to the new congregation in Corinth, a busy Greek port city where people from many cultures and religions mixed together. In these passages Paul focuses on how God gifts God’s people with a variety of gifts from the Spirit, which gifts they are to use to help one another grow in faith, and to show God’s radical love to others. On February 3rd we hear the familiar words of 1 Corinthians 13, where Paul explains that the purpose behind all these gifts is love. In the remaining readings, he goes on to explain that God’s radical love shown in Christ Jesus not only enables us to live a new life here and now, but assures us of a new life to come on the other side of the grave.

To get a “sneak peek” at these lessons read 1 Corinthians 13 and chapter 15:1-20, 35-38 and 42-50.

WHAT'S IN A LABEL? CAN I DONATE FOOD TO THE FOOD BANK IF THE DATE ON THE CONTAINER HAS PASSED?

Many of us read the labels on the food we buy, but what they contain can be very confusing. Take for example the phrases: "Use by," "Best By" and "Expires". Many of us assume that it is not safe to use an item if the listed date has passed. This is not necessarily true.

According to the February 2019 Consumer Reports "On Health" newsletter and an online archived article by WebMD the following labels have these meanings.

The "**use by**" date is the date when manufacturers guarantee the product is at its best quality. **The exception is infant formula.** In this case the "use-by" date is a safety date and should be carefully observed. The "use by" date on infant formulas is a date, selected by the manufacturer based on tests and other information, to inform retailers and consumers about the quality of the infant formula. Until that declared date, the infant formula will contain no less than the amount of each nutrient declared on the product label and will otherwise be of acceptable quality. The "use by" date is required by 9 FDA regulations on each container of infant formula. Source: FDA/CFSAN Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling and Dietary Supplements, July 2002.

The term "**expiration date**" refers to the last date a food should be eaten or used (WebMD). Some, however, question whether a product might, in fact, be good for some time after this date.

The "**sell by**" date tells the store when to remove the product from the shelves how long to display the product for sale. The issue is the quality of the item, not whether or not it is spoiled. The date listed is the last date the product is at its highest quality, but it is possible the item might be good for a very long time after that date.

The "**best if used by**" date refers only to quality and not safety.

"**Guaranteed fresh**" usually refers to bakery items and again refers to quality, not safety.

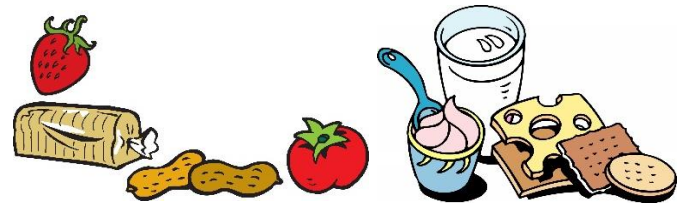
The "**pack**" date is when the item was packed and may be in a code set by the manufacturer.

In answer to the question, "Is it safe to eat food past its use-by or sell-by date?" the Consumer Report article responds: "Usually, yes. Manufacturers

provide such dates to help consumers decide when a food is of best quality. In both cases, a product should be safe if handled properly until spoilage is evident. Spoiled foods often have an off-odor and off-taste. But look for other signs, such as changes in texture or color."

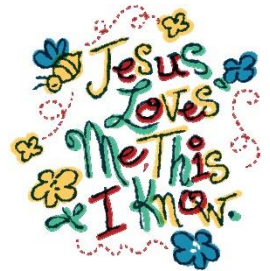
The WebMD site offers information on "How Long are Foods OK to Eat?" as well as other food safety tips. Go to <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/features/do-food-expiration-dates-matter#2>.

As far as donating items to the food bank, you may donate items that have a date that has passed. Providing the item does not appear to have spoiled, the food bank will place the item on a separate table that indicates the date of best quality has passed. People are then free to decide whether to take and use the items.



LOVED AND KNOWN

"Jesus knows me, this I love," read the church sign. That twist on the classic children's song emphasizes the importance of being both loved and known. "It's not one or the other; it's hard truth and ridiculous grace," sings contemporary Christian artist Tauren Wells in "Known."



Timothy Keller, in *The Meaning of Marriage*, describes the duality this way: "To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us."

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.

-Nelson Mandela



Dear Friends, thank you so much for participating in our Christmas-At-Sea Holiday Initiative. With your help, our six port chaplains delivered the 1,853 satchels assembled by individuals, youth and senior groups, businesses and congregations. Your contribution brought joy to seafarers out in the open sea, far away from loved ones and family. On their behalf, thank you! In the meantime, best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and happy 2019. – *Pastor Marsh Luther Drege, Executive Director, Seafarers International House*

Note: We continued to collect knit or crocheted hats and scarves for these men. For help in making these contact Betty Eshbach or Sue Schlenker.

* * * * *

Dear Friends at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, please accept our most heartfelt thanks for your gift of \$1,000 to Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA). It is truly amazing how the gift of education can change lives for generations to come. Since 1965, donations to OBA have funded a wide range of educational projects in Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar. Thousands of students have had life-changing educational opportunities thanks to OBA donors like you! Today OBA's work primarily supports the following projects:

- **The MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS)**
- **The Post-Secondary Scholarship Program** which allows MGLSS graduates to continue their education by assisting with their college, university, and vocational school costs.
- **The Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School of Nursing** which is training much-needed nurses and community health workers. OBA is focusing on funding nurses' training scholarships and renovating a school to be used as a permanent site for the school.

Also in Tanzania, donors support a variety of projects such as the building of teacher houses, kitchen/dining facilities and dormitories, along with integral funding for school breakfasts, uniforms, text books, teachers' salaries and school supplies.

Your gift provided a stove for the kitchen at Olchoki Primary School. Education is the key to leaving poverty behind. Your generous gifts bring hope to children and young adults who have few opportunities in their lives—**thank you!** We look forward to your continued support of students in Tanzania! – Warmest regards, *Jason Bermann, Executive Director*

Note: As of January, we have forwarded another \$500 for this project.

NEWS & EVENTS in the Community

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

On **Tuesday, February 12, at 7 p.m.** Held at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main Street, Kutztown. Food and drink are available for purchase.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FORUMS

The Lutheran Home at Topton will be running Bereavement Support Forums the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. led by Rev. Dr. Colleen Kristula, Chaplain at the Lutheran Home at Topton. They will be held in Deibert Hall, first floor of D-wing. On **February 19, 2019** – *What's It All About?: The Tasks of Grieving*. Refreshments and a time for sharing will follow each program or presentation. There is no fee to attend, but please register at 610.682.1334. Weather related cancellations will be recorded at the same number.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS – March 9, 2019

Bloom Where You Are Planted is an exciting, new one-day leadership event that is planned for youth, adult and rostered leaders of our East Berks and West Berks Mission Districts. The event will be held on **Saturday, March 9, 2019** at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, 16 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood, from **9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** This event will provide an opportunity for leaders from area participating congregations to engage in a wide-ranging series of workshops that address various challenges faced by our faith communities in these times. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Dennis Ritter at 484.529.7801 or by email at dsritter@ptd.net. Be sure to register early. Space is limited. A list of workshops is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please see Pastor Ruth to sign up.

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts
December 31, 2018**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$24,805.80
Thrivent	7,034.20
Checking	6,597.85
Youth	404.87
Fidelity	129,249.92
Cash Reserve	17,589.89
Mission Investment	11,354.66
Local Care	<u>1,613.75</u>
Total	<u>\$198,650.94</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **December 31, 2017** \$ 209,046.57

December 2018 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’

Income

	<u>Income Required</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,779.62	\$ 10,581.05 *	\$ 1,801.43

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2018 Budget
Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

* Actual Income Includes: \$3,700.00 ESTIMATED
INCOME from Shoo-Fly Pie Sale

Parking Lot – Funds received to offset expenses for
Driveway/Parking Lot Repaving

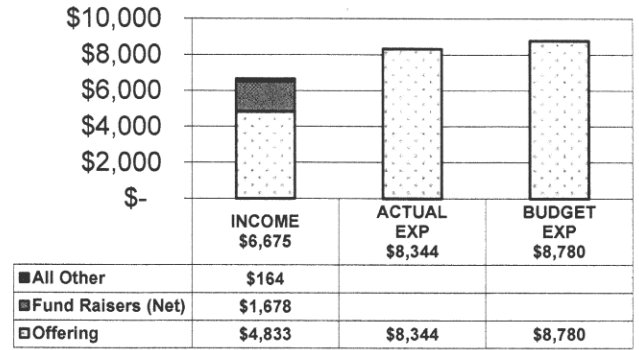
\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Project
\$ 25,354.54 Funds Received to offset expenses *

- * (Includes \$432.50 Profit from 2018 Yard Share)
- * (Includes \$439.54 Profit from 2018 Fall Festival)
- * (Includes \$700.00 Profit from 2018 Oley Fair French Fry)

If our hearts are in heaven, then heaven will be
in our hearts, and here we shall know the joy
and the peace that come from “sitting in
heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” even whilst
here on Earth.

—Alexander Maclaren

**DECEMBER 2018 YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME AND EXPENSE**



MONTHLY AVERAGE

**CALENDAR YEAR 2018 INFORMATION
NORMAL OPERATIONS
(DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)**

**INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY
DECEMBER 2018 YEAR-TO-DATE**

	<u>Dec Y-T-D</u>	<u>Average Month</u>
Income		
Offering	\$ 57,995	\$ 4,833
Fund Raisers	\$ 20,141	1,678
Other	\$ 1,962	164
Total Income	\$ 80,098	6,675
Actual Exp	\$ 100,127	8,344
Budget Exp	\$ 105,355	8,780
Shortage *	\$ (20,029)	(1,669)

*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2018 ACTUAL Expense
Less Benevolence & Major Repairs/Purchases

Bible Quiz

In Luke’s account of Jesus calling
the first disciples from their
work as fishermen to follow
him and “fish for people”
(NIV), which disciple is
not named?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Simon
- D. Andrew



Answer: D (See Luke 5:1-11.)

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care

Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Audrey Hoffman, Leon Moyer, Irene Noll, and Joyce Rothermel.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Members: Glenn Allen, Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, John Keck, Phillip Litschke, Sheila Long, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Horace Rothermel, and Dale Schwoyer.

Friends of the congregation: Regina B., Thelma Bright, Bill Collins, Evelyn Collins, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Barbara Feeman, Kenny Fink, Eric Fox, Becky Graeff, Mamie Guinther, Steve Haage, Corinne Hersh, David Jenkins, Angie Kistler, Joe Klick, Anh La, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Michelle Meck, Rodney Muthard, Kyle Olinger, Tonya Petersheim, Monica R., Jackson Radcliffe, Rayjeana Schultz, Leah Wiest, Dennis Wright, and Laraine Wuchter.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: For our nation. For our president, congress and judicial system. For peace in the world and between citizens and those who serve them. For our military personnel serving around the world. For areas enduring fire, drought, storms, flooding, and other disasters, for migrants and refugees and the countries to which they flee.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Millie Berger, Sandy Burkart, Alice Epler, Katie F., Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Janis Kershner, Lauren Kinney, Michael M., Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Jackie Wagner, and Rachel Woodhead.



Did You Know?

CHI RHO

“Chi” and “rho” are the first two letters in the Greek spelling for Christ (XPICTOC, pronounced “Christos”). The blending of these two letters into one symbol formed a “sacred monogram.” Early Christians created many such symbols as codes to indicate their discipleship while avoiding detection by Roman persecutors. Many variations of the Chi Rho symbol exist, incorporating a cross, a shepherd’s crook, the Greek letters alpha and omega, an anchor and other images.



Note from Pastor Ruth: I frequently use the chi rho when taking notes in place of the word “Christ” or as the beginning of the word “Christian.”

Years ago, some started using the symbol “X” at the beginning of the word “Christmas,” so it read “Xmas.” Others who probably didn’t know the origin of this practice protested, “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Yes, we definitely want to keep Christ in Christmas, at least in the meaning and observance of Christmas. But when you see “Xmas,” you might stop and think that it may have actually started by folks who were using the chi rho to talk about “Christ’s mass” which got shortened to “Christmas.”

THE CHURCH AS MOSAIC

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.



That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: “I make God visible.” But others who see us together can say: “They make God visible.” [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

– Henri J. M. Nouwen

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

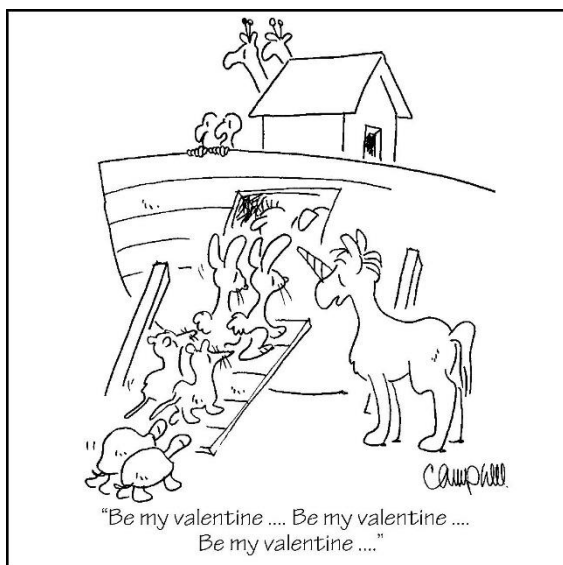
- 2 Linda Moyer
- 3 Robert Keller
- 4 Courtney Mengel
- 6 Lillian Lambert
- 8 Kevin Stump
- 11 Beatrice Barlet
- 15 Steve Fox
- 18 Caleb Keller
- 22 Katie Ellen Cleaver
- 25 Sherrie Carl
- 25 Jason Beshore
- 26 Michael Fair
- 27 Justin Keller
- 28 Jeannette DeLong



ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

- 2 John and Patricia Keck (61 years)

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



STEWARDSHIP OF LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." – Mark 12:31b

Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." – Matthew 5:43b

Red hearts, roses and chocolates are everywhere, so it must be February—the month of love! There's certainly nothing wrong with celebrating romance between you and a special someone, or love among family members, or best friends who are always there for one another.



But our inner-circle folks represent only a sliver of the people Jesus calls us to love. And let's face it: they're the *easy* ones to love. Jesus calls us to a higher plane of love; to love everyone. This means not just the people about whom we are ambivalent, but our actual enemies and those who persecute us.

Such love is a tall order, especially today, when hatred and demonization is rampant. Our political, media and social cultures encourage us to demean everybody with whom we disagree or who is different from us. Though it may be impossible to reach Jesus' ideal, as stewards and disciples of Jesus, we can do better.

- Turn from hate. It may be too much to love our enemies, but we can start by turning from hatred. When negative feelings arise, refuse to marinate in them. Pray for guidance and strength.
- Remember that loving your enemy doesn't mean approving of who they are, what they do, or letting them escape responsibility for their actions. It also does not mean you cannot protect yourself or others from harm.
- Imagine them as a broken, imperfect child of God (just like you!), who needs God's love and mercy.
- Pray for them. Ask God to lead them, guide them, fill their lives with healing. Ask God to give them the kind of loving heart that you are hoping to develop in yourself.

If you do these things consistently, with God's help you will have transformed your heart, your life and our world.

—Rob Blezard

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THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February

- ◆ 3 10:00 AM Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Holy Communion (G)
 - Souper Bowl of Caring Breakfast (8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.)
- * 10 10:00 AM Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (G)
 - Scout Sunday
 - Faith Formation Event after worship
- * 17 10:00 AM Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (G)
- 24 10:00 AM Seventh Sunday after Epiphany (G)
 - Baptism
 - Annual Meeting after worship

March

- * 3 10:00 AM Transfiguration of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
 - Stewardship Meeting after worship
- 6 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (P)
 - Held at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
- 10 10:00 AM First Sunday in Lent (P)
 - Faith Formation Event after worship
- 13 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service (P) – Hope Lutheran, Bowers
- * 17 10:00 AM Second Sunday in Lent (P)
- 20 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service (P) – Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers
- 24 10:00 AM Third Sunday in Lent (P)
- 27 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service (P) – Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville
- * 31 10:00 AM Fourth Sunday in Lent (P)

April

- 3 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service (P) – New Jerusalem Lutheran
- 7 10:00 AM Fifth Sunday in Lent (P) – Holy Communion
- 10 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service (P) – Christian Congregation, Mertztown
- * 14 10:00 AM Palm Sunday (P) – Holy Communion
- 17 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service (P) – St. Paul’s Lutheran, Mertztown
(soup and salad supper at 6 p.m., service at 7 p.m.)
- 18 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday (W) – Holy Communion
- 19 7:00 PM Good Friday
- 21 10:00 AM Easter Sunday (W) – Holy Communion
- * 28 10:00 AM Second Sunday of Easter (W)

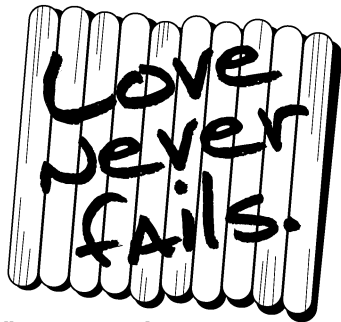
FELLOWSHIP DATES:

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



A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.

WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.

God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answers: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
2/3	TBA	Sara Jane Beshore	Don & Erma Gajewski	Katie Ellen & Elwood Cleaver
2/10	Josh Keck	Ty Rissmiller	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
2/17	TBA	Gladys Kline	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
2/24	TBA	Cindy Rissmiller	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Amy Hahn

ALTAR GUILD: Sara Jane Beshore

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Diane Keller

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Gladys Kline




COMMUNION BREAD: 2/3 – Sara Jane Beshore

COMMUNION SET-UP: 2/3 – Sara Jane Beshore

COUNCILPERSON: Betty Eshbach

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

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	2 Learning Ministries' Day (snow date)  GROUNDHOG DAY
3 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Holy Communion 8:30am-Souper Bowl of Caring Breakfast, before worship	4 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	5 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	6 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	7	8 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	9
10 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Scout Sunday ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship	11 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	12 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	13 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 4:30pm-Quilting	14 Pastor Ruth out of town until February 22  Valentine's Day	15 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	16
17 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Fellowship	18 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  PRESIDENTS DAY	19 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	20 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	21	22 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	23
24 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Baptism ▪ Annual Meeting after worship	25 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	26 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	27 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	28		

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A Toy Drive in Schwarzwald



Several years ago, Pastor Scott Staub had a dream that the Schwarzwald community could hold a Toy Drive for the children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry. The program began at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church; and now in its third year, it has become a truly community effort. This year the following churches participated in the Toy Drive: Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, Schwarzwald UCC, St. Lawrence UCC, Northstar UMC, and Bethany Lutheran Church.

Financial support was provided by Thrivent Financial and Tompkin's VIST Bank. Wood-to-Wonderful provided their lovely handmade, wooden toys. The Arbor Inn, Effie's Charcoal Chef and Jake's of Mt. Penn provided collection sites, funding and cooking assistance. Boscov's Travel, A Perfect Secretary, Exeter Veterinary Hospital, Five Below, St. Lawrence Women's Club, Rotary of Mt. Penn/Exeter, Exeter Lions Club, the Exeter Girls Scouts and the Exeter Food Pantry collected toys, bought toys and provided many hardworking volunteers.

There was absolutely no problem getting volunteers for this event! We had the hardest working, most joy-filled volunteers ever! Would you believe that we never had to ask for help with this project? The volunteers found us! We had set-up help, truck drivers, bakers, food servers, toy sorters, personal shoppers, tireless gift wrappers, friendly faces; and we even had a full crew at clean up time!

The parents were very grateful and shared their thanks freely. We heard stories of disability, lost jobs, housing complications, sick children and even lost spouses. Most of the parents were relieved to have been invited to the event, expressing that they had no idea how they would have provided Christmas for their children without the Toy Give!

Synod Assembly 2019 New Theme and Logo



The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on June 1 at Genetti Red Roof Inn and Suites in Hazleton.

The theme, "Freed In Christ For a New Day," highlights that "in Christ, there is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The new logo symbolizes some of the underlying concepts and content to be explored at this Assembly:

The FONT style is bold and clear, fresh and informal, reflecting a church that is open to all ages and clear in its belief and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The three colors are representative. (View the color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>).

BLUE - the skies and the waters that abundantly bless our Synod territory; and the waters of our baptism.

GREEN - the hills, mountains, valleys, and the rich fields and farmlands that are our heritage and our legacy, bestowed on us to steward, share and pass on to those who come after.

GOLD/YELLOW - the rising sun of the new day dawning in Jesus; the light of Christ; and even the fresh loaf of bread, the body of Christ broken for us.

The FISH is the earliest symbol of Christ and his first followers, and connects to his feeding of the 5,000 and his call for us to "fish for people."

Food Pantry Expansion in Dingmans Ferry



Holy Trinity in Dingmans Ferry has been operating a food pantry for 30 years. In recent times, as the number of families coming to receive supplemental food has grown, Holy Trinity has partnered with state and local government, local businesses, the Delaware Valley School District, and the community to purchase and collect food to distribute.

Barbara Hupfer, the Holy Trinity Lay Assistant, coordinates the pantry, ordering food, recruiting and training volunteers and scheduling and meeting with food pantry recipients. The pantry is open 5 days a week.

In recent years the need for additional space for storage, freezers and distribution of food became critical. The congregation was blessed by a \$100,000 gift from a parishioner who volunteers in the pantry and a grant from the Land Share Act of Pennsylvania for \$50,000 to pay for the 980 square foot addition onto the church.

Bishop Zeiser came to preside over the dedication of the new pantry. He spoke about recognizing the mission of God being shared in the church and the community, including the county and local elected officials who were present.



The congregation is filled with joy over this growing ministry that daily serves people in need. Each month, over 150 families are given supplemental food including, cereal, canned goods, meat, vegetables and a variety of staples. The congregation is blessed by being a blessing.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.