

**THE GOOD NEWSLETTER**

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

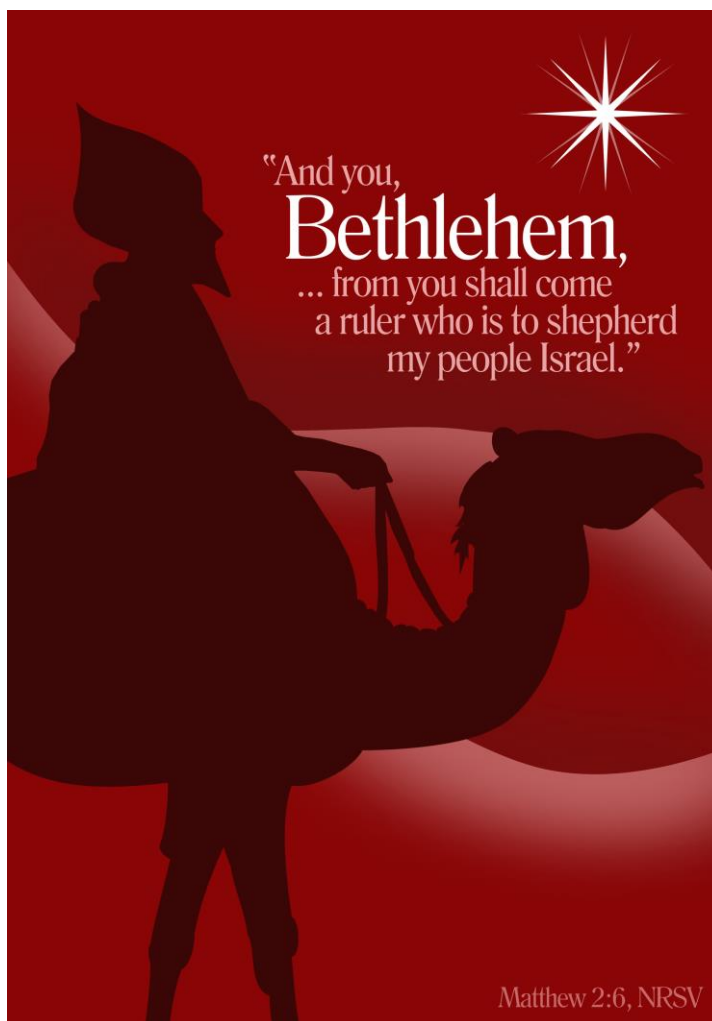
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Website: <http://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

Office Phone: 610-682-6064

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon



**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.*

# New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

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"Cold December Flies Away." Many of you might agree that this December truly had some very cold moments and it really did fly!

On December 21st we marked the shortest day of the year. Many of us are thrilled that has passed! However, as my mother used to quote, "As the days grow longer, the cold grows stronger." We're certainly not done with cold weather yet! Three more months coming up!

Even though the days *are* getting longer, daylight is still in short supply and there are no holiday lights to brighten the nights. Some people experience SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder, around this time. It's caused by lack of sufficient sunlight. Some are sad because they are very aware that sin, anything that separates us from the *fullness* of God's joy and love for us, has entered their lives. Sin may have come in as illness, loss, realization one has not lived as God wants, and many other forms.

We closed the 9 pm Christmas Eve worship by singing "Joy to the World!" What is it that prevents you from experiencing the *fullness of joy* which God wants you to have? What prevents your loved one or neighbor from experiencing it? How can we as baptized individuals and a church family address whatever it is that prevents you and others from living in the warmth and full life promised with the birth of the Christ child?

Are you open to some new things this year? Are you willing to not only be open to receiving God's good news, God's "Sonlight," but also to learning more effective ways to share it? Join us for worship on January 4th, when we celebrate the festival of Epiphany. Consider attending Learning Ministries Day with me on January 24<sup>th</sup> (more inside). How much fun it

would be to have a group of us go together and then share our ideas! Be sure to attend worship and the congregational meeting on January 25th when we as a family welcome new members, share dreams and make plans for our ministry.

In the hopeless time of sin  
shadows deep had fallen.  
All the world lay under death.  
Eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But, when all seemed lost in night,  
came the sun whose gold light brings  
unending joy,  
brings the endless joy  
of our hope, highest hope, of our hope's bright  
dawning,  
Son belov'd of heaven.

"Cold December Flies Away" Catalonian  
carol, translated Howard Harhee, b. 1953

Lutheran Book of Worship #53. Used with  
permission CCLI#2549570

May the light of God's love, brighten your days  
and shine through you to others!

*Pastor Ruth*





## WORSHIP & MUSIC INFORMATION

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**CHURCH UN-DECORATING** – Your help is needed! We need volunteers to stay after the church service on Sunday, January 4, to help take down the Christmas decorations. Thank you!

**2015 SIGN-UP SHEETS** are now available in the narthex. Please consider where you are able to serve God and your church. Areas where sponsorship is currently available: Altar Flowers: \$35.00 per week; Sunday Bulletins: \$7.00 per week; Children’s Bulletins: \$5.00 per week; and Sanctuary Candle: \$15.00 per month. Volunteer areas that are available are Altar Guild, Communion Bread, Communion Set-up and Acolyte.

**JANUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS** – We are in need of Flower sponsors for January 4, 11, and 25; a Bulletin sponsor for January 25; an Altar Guild volunteer; Communion Bread sponsors for January 4 and 11; Communion Set-up volunteers for January 4 and 11; and volunteers to light the Altar Candles for January 4, 11, 18, and 25. Thank you!

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

January 11 – Baptism of Our Lord, Holy Communion  
February 1 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany/ Souper Bowl Sunday (breakfast served before worship at 8:30 a.m.)  
February 15 – Transfiguration of Our Lord, Holy Communion  
February 18 – Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes



**ANNUAL MEETING** – The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015, following the worship service. If there would be inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2015. The agenda for the annual meeting includes the presentation of annual reports of the

congregation and election of council members. All voting members of New Jerusalem are encouraged to attend. Your presence is needed to conduct the business of our church.

**OFFICE CLOSED** – The church office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, in observance of New Year’s Day.

**OUR CONDOLENCES** to the family and friends of Gladys Luckenbill who passed away on December 3, 2014.



### 175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SERVICES

will take place on Sunday, April 19, 2015, and Sunday, October 4, 2015. Bishop Zeiser has accepted an invitation to attend the April 19<sup>th</sup> service.

**OLD PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED!** Do you have any photographs (old or new) from New Jerusalem that you would like to share? We would like to use them for our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. If you would like to share any of your photos, you can mail them to the church office. All photos will be returned. Thank you for your help!



### INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

– In the event that Church and Sunday School need to be cancelled, you can listen to WFMZ, WAEB 790 AM, or watch Channel 69 news. You may also call the church office at 610-682-6064 and there will be a recording on the answering machine on Sunday morning if any services or events are cancelled. We also encourage you to call a member or guest that may not have heard about the cancellation.

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Sunday, January 18.

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
Statement of Accounts  
November 30, 2014**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 25,635.40
Thrivent	5,934.66
Checking	12,374.72
Youth	966.04
Fidelity	169,970.82
Cash Reserve	24,496.45
Endowment CD	11,150.48

**November 2014 — 'Actual' vs. 'Required'  
Income**

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Delta</u>
<u>Income</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Income</u>	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Delta</u>
Operating Expenses	\$9,787.08	\$8,420.00*	(\$1,367.08)

*\*Actual Income includes \$2,400.00 Estimated Profit from Shoo Fly Pie sale*

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2014 Budget Passed by Congregation*

**BRANDYWINE AREA CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY** — Below is a list of current needs. canned fruit (any variety), cake mixes (any), canned meat (spam, tuna, turkey), Sloppy Joe mix, cereal, coffee (regular and decaf), tea bags, Chef Boyardee products, Progresso soup (any variety), pudding, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dishwashing soap, paper products (paper towels, toilet paper), pancake mix, cooking oil, sugar, flour, ketchup, mustard, pickles, salad dressing, fruit juice, vegetable juice, rice and noodle side dishes, chilies, stews, Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes, mashed potatoes. Anything else is also accepted. Clean plastic grocery bags are also needed to pack the groceries. Thank you for your continued support.



One theme of Epiphany is to share the Gospel with others and lead them to faith. To whom did Jesus say, "Go therefore and make disciples"?

- A. Peter, James and John (his "inner circle")
- B. The women at the empty tomb
- C. A crowd, beside the Sea of Galilee
- D. The 11 disciples  
(Judas had committed suicide)

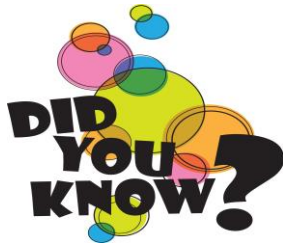
Answer: D (See Matthew 28:16-20)



**LOAVES AND FISHES** group is sponsoring a free community meal to be held on Tuesday, January 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 121 S. Home Avenue, Topton. Everyone is welcome!

**DO YOU LOVE DOING PUZZLES?** If so, please join us for the 2015 Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament at the Longswamp Township Municipal Building on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ~ Tournament begins at 7:00 p.m. Gather a team into 6 or less people to do a 500-piece puzzle. All ages welcome. Cash prizes awarded. Enjoy light refreshments and tons of fun. Sign up by calling the township office at 610-682-7388.





## "Ecce Agnus Dei"

Latin for "Behold, the Lamb of God," this is the phrase John the Baptist used twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus' Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



## A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
And by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

- Author unknown  
- Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



## What not to take into the new year

- ▶ Self-help books – Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- ▶ Tape measure – Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- ▶ Rearview mirror – Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- ▶ Gavel – Instead of judging others, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- ▶ Life vest – Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- ▶ Garage-door opener – We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves from our neighbors. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- ▶ Handcuffs – Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through – and despite – us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

- Gregg McCaslin  
- Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



**PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING  
IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Please pray for:** *(current list)* Anna Angstadt, Dallas Angstadt, Cliff Barlet, Bertha Bennecoff, Larry Dey, Jean Deyscher, Ted Eshbach, Karl Fenstermacher, Erma Guinther, Amanda Herman, Paul Hertzog, Sheila Long, Mary Merkel, Linda Moyer, Lloyd Moyer, Harvey Noll, Irene Noll, Mildred Reinert, Warren Reinhart, Betty Stoudt, Arlene Yob, Baby Lydia, Ilona Betts, Jolyn Blankenbiller, Family and friends of Tony DeRenzo, Shirley Diaz, Marilyn Franzi, Myles Hansbury, Corinne Hersh, Family and friends of Richard Hersh, Lauren Kinney, Bill Kurtz, Patricia Noll, Lananh Rissmiller, Russell Roeder, Andrew S., Jerry Schwambach, William Schwoyer, Tom Spraut, Jack Stoudt, Kyle Weidner, Cindy Wilt, for all our military personnel serving around the world, those affected by the Ebola outbreak, and peace in the world, especially the Middle East and the Ukraine.

*(long-term)* Baby Adelene, Samuel Behm, Evelyn Collins, Shirley Hertzog, Erma Noll, Ralph Harris, Mae Hertzog, Jack Krause, Josh S., Theresa S., Karen W., Frances Walter, Veronica White, Elise Barlet, Major Jeromy Guinther, and the mission of our church.



**THRIVENT FINANCIAL ACTION TEAMS** – If you’re a Thrivent member, you can lead a Thrivent Action Team to bring people together for a one-time project to help others be wise with money and live generously. You can: coordinate an educational event, conduct a service activity, organize a fundraiser.

Thrivent will provide: resources to help you plan the event, promotional items, including Thrivent t-shirts, Community Impact Card with \$250 of seed money.

Each Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year. Learn more at [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam).



- 3 Dennis Guinther
- 5 Wilma Herman
- 6 Bertha Bennecoff
- 8 Arlan Conrad
- 10 Norma Conrad
- 12 Charles Merkel
- 14 Holly Allen
- 14 Keith Boyer
- 15 Myles Angstadt
- 16 Lester Barlet
- 20 Roy Merkel
- 21 Jonathan Allen
- 29 Darla Stout
- 30 Ted Eshbach
- 30 Lloyd Moyer



- 7 Richard and Goldie Carl (59 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. Thank you.**

## **THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **January**

* 4	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Christmas—Holy Communion (W)
11	10:00 AM	Baptism of Our Lord—Holy Communion (W)
*18	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after the Epiphany (G)
25	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after the Epiphany (G)

### **February**

◆ 1	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany—Holy Communion (G) ▪ Souper Bowl Sunday (breakfast)
8	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany (G)
*15	10:00 AM	Transfiguration of Our Lord—Holy Communion (W)
18	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday—Holy Communion (P) ▪ Imposition of Ashes
22	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent (P)
25	7:15 PM	Lenten Midweek (P)

### **March**

* 1	10:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent—Holy Communion (P)
4	7:15 PM	Lenten Midweek (P)
8	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent (P)
11	7:15 PM	Lenten Midweek (P)
*15	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent (P)
18	7:15 PM	Lenten Midweek (P)
22	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent (P)
25	7:15 PM	Lenten Midweek (P)
*29	10:00 AM	Sunday of the Passion—Holy Communion (P)

#### **FELLOWSHIP DATES:**

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



**LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY**  
**Milestone Ministry – Vibrant Faith through Life Schedule**  
**Saturday, January 24, 2015**  
**Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville, PA**  
**8:30 a.m. (registration) until 3:00 p.m.**

Every January our synod sets up a learning ministries day. What is that? It's a Saturday chock full of opportunities to not only learn more about faith, but also ways to share it. It's open to anyone who wants to learn and is lots of fun. Folks come from congregations all over northeastern Pennsylvania to attend.

Curious? The keynote speaker, Debbie Streicher, will challenge us to think about "Vibrant Faith Through Life." Debbie Streicher has facilitated and developed faith formation programs for all ages in the congregational setting for the past 25 years. She is Coordinator of Milestone Ministry. As a volunteer, she serves as President for the Christian Education Network of the ELCA.

The keynote presentation will be followed by workshops and lunch. New Jerusalem will cover the registration fee for anyone who wants to attend. Those who would like to make a contribution to help cover the costs, should place it in the offering basket in an envelope marked: "Learning Ministries Day."

Please be sure to sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or let Pastor Ruth know **by January 6<sup>th</sup>** whether you want to attend and your choice of workshops.

**BRIEF WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS** – see more detailed sheets in the narthex.

- A. **Nurturing Faith Every Day in the Home (afternoon only)** – Look at a simple five-step faith practice that could change a child, a family, a world.
- B. **What's with All the Drama?** – Learn about how a Christian theater group tries to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive through theater. Participants will learn a powerful use of confession and the Lord's Prayer.
- C. **Igniting the Spiritual Imagination of the Generations: The Saint John's Bible** – Not a new word translation, but a new visual translation, The Saint John's Bible is a significant artistic masterpiece. Its mission is to ignite the spiritual imagination of people of all faiths around the world.
- D. **"Yeah – We've Got an App for That!"** – A brief review of faith-related applications (apps) for smartphones and tablets (as well as a few online programs for all computers). The presenter's hope is that each participant will come away with two apps that can help in some aspect of his/her faith journey.
- E. **Vacation Bible School Preview (morning only)** – Samples of 2015 VBS curricula.
- F. **Good News for Children Now: A Brief Introduction to Godly Play®** - Godly Play® offers a creative, child-honoring way of entering and experiencing the stories of the people of God in sacred stories, the parables of Jesus, and lessons about the Christian community in worship. Children are invited to make their own discoveries about themselves and God through visual, tactile, oral storytelling, verbal wondering, and non-verbal self-directed creative activities. In this workshop, adult participants are invited to explore the heart of Godly Play®,



engage in a story with wondering, reflect on the experience and, maybe, discover new possibilities for ministry.

- G. **Strengthening the Home - Church Connection (morning only)** – Come for loads of ideas from a variety of resources and hear what has worked in other congregations. See how social media can help strengthen the home-church connection.
- H. **Equipping Parents as Primary Religious Educators (afternoon only)** – When does religious education begin? What is the difference between religious education and faith formation? Check out this workshop to get tools for helping you equip parents to be the primary religious educators for their children.
- I. **Nurturing Faith throughout the Year** – Parents are their children’s first teacher of the faith as they grow and change. Milestones throughout the year offer opportunities to teach your family about Jesus and how he is with us day-to-day. Learn about and try different projects for birthdays, holidays, vacations and the school year.
- J. **Empowering Children and Youth in Faith Communities (morning only)** – What would it take for your faith community to become a place young people described as essential, exciting, inspiring, and empowering? How do we create relevant, meaningful, and engaging settings where children and youth thirst to be involved? Through discussion and review of existing resources for identifying Spiritual gifts, we will consider the steps needed to grow communities where children and youth are empowered to “do” ministry.
- K. **Milestones: Taking One Step at a Time (afternoon only)** – In this workshop, participants will be invited to participate in a Q&A session about Milestones Ministry. Time will be spent discussing how existing ministries can be renewed ministries through the lens of milestones in our lives.
- L. **Conversations with God** – Why should we pray? What does prayer look like? What does our Lutheran faith have to teach us about prayer? What are some prayer practices we can incorporate into our daily devotions?
- M. **Baptism Boxes** – Workshop participants will learn how to make Baptism boxes to remember a Baptism day and the gifts of this Sacrament. Ideas will be shared about how and when these boxes can be presented. Participants are invited to bring with them: a box, decorating materials, and supplies, and Baptism mementos.
- N. **Instagram Testimonies (afternoon only)** – What happens when you combine a smartphone, a group of youth equipped with questions about faith, and homebound members and other adults and children? Instagram testimonies as a way to connect generations in the church through their faith stories in a very profound way! Our social media savvy young people have gifts to share to help congregations tell their faith stories. Learn ways to help empower them to use their social media gifts in your congregation.
- O. **Music for All Ages** – In so much of our lives, we are separated by age. God is calling all of us to be in community with each other, no matter our ages. Music is one way to bridge the gaps and to make community. But when we all gather as God’s people of all ages, what songs can we sing together?
- P. **Inspirational Painting across the Generations (morning only)** – Visual arts help us remember the biblical stories and draw us into a deeper relationship with God. The nonverbal medium of visual arts can be used by all ages to nurture faith. Participants will have the opportunity for a hands-on-experience using acrylic paints to interpret a Bible verse.

## "ONE" PAINTING

Ephesians 4:4-6 talks a lot about one. Create one painting that says it all.



**What you need:**

- Foam letters or letter stickers
- White painting canvas
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush or sponge
- Water

**What you do:**

1. Place letters on the canvas to spell out the "ones" in Ephesians 4:4-6 (one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God).
2. Paint over the letters, using various colors.
3. When the paint is dry, peel off the letters to reveal words that explain important Bible truths.
4. If desired, finish by painting some number 1's in any blank spots.



## One Baptism

The "one" theme of Ephesians 4:4-6 assures us that we need to be baptized only once. Yet a relationship with God involves approaching him with a humble heart each day.

*Directions: Inside the 1, fill in words using the spaces as a guide. Then unscramble the circled and boxed letters to reveal John's message about baptism in Mark 1:4.*

hope		
Spirit	--- y	<input type="text"/>
body	• i •	--- n --- nce
baptism	--- --- r ---	<input type="text"/>
Lord	• • ---	--- v n ---
Father	• •	
God	• • • •	

Answers: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, baptism, God, Father, repentance, forgiveness

## **JANUARY SERVICE ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>READERS</b>	<b>ALTAR CANDLES</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>BULLETINS</b>
1/4	Denny Beshore	Ty Rissmiller	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Lisa Landis	Dale Schwoyer
1/11	Joshua Keck	Cindy Rissmiller	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Dale Schwoyer
1/18	Jeannette DeLong	Ken Keck	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	The Guinther Families	The Guinther Families
1/25	Clifford Schlenker	Dawn Wengert	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>

**ALTAR GUILD:** *(volunteer needed)*

**CHILDREN'S BULLETINS:** Gladys Kline

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** Gladys Kline

**COMMUNION BREAD:** 1/4 – *(sponsor needed)*; 1/11 – *(sponsor needed)*

**COMMUNION SET-UP:** 1/4 – Faye Dey; 1/11 – *(volunteer needed)*

**COUNCIL PERSON:** Ted Eshbach, 610-987-0358

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

# JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> The church office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day.</p>				<p>1</p>  <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR! OFFICE CLOSED</p>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Holy Communion</li> <li>▪ Fellowship</li> <li>▪ Christmas Un-decorating (after worship)</li> </ul>	5	<p>6</p> <p>6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30pm-Worship &amp; Music Committee</p>	8	9	10
<p>11</p> <p>Baptism of Our Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Holy Communion</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir</p>	14	15	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fellowship</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm-Council Meeting</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (<i>observed</i>)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon @ Janelle's</p>	22	23	24
<p>25</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annual Meeting after worship (Snow Date: Sunday, February 1)</li> </ul>	26	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm-Bells 7:30pm-Choir</p>	28	29	30	31