

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net

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

Office Phone: 610-682-6064

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

For surely
I KNOW THE
plans
I have for
YOU,
says the
Lord...
TO GIVE YOU A
future
WITH
Hope.
Jeremiah 29:11, 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.*

New Year's Message

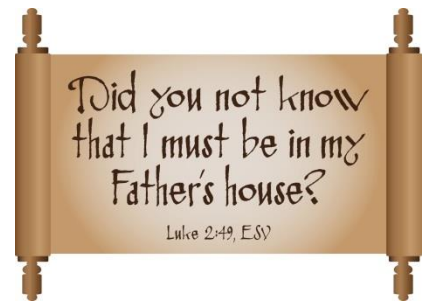
FROM THE PASTOR

Many joys and blessings for this New Year!

Recently I received a note in the mail asking me to order and distribute what the sender considered God's business card. God's business card! What an interesting thought. What do you think God would put on God's business card?

Perhaps this could be a theme for us as we start this new year: what do we think God would put on that little bit of paper we call a business card? What would summarize what God wanted to say to everyone God met and meets?

The only story we have in the gospels about the childhood and early adolescence of Jesus is recorded in Luke, chapter 2 verses 41-51. There we learn that when Jesus was 12 he went up to Jerusalem with his parents and many other pilgrims to celebrate the Passover, the feast of their ancestors' liberation from Pharaoh's tyranny, of liberation after generations of slavery. After the days of celebration were over, the pilgrims from Nazareth started home and Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was with all their fellow travelers. But when they went to find him among their relatives and friends, they discovered he was missing, so his parents hurried back to Jerusalem. After days of searching, they found Jesus in the temple, "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions." They also discovered that those listening to the discussion were amazed at Jesus' understanding of scripture and the teachings. When Mary and Joseph saw their son, Mary asked, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look we've been anxiously searching high and low for you!" Now it was Jesus turn to express astonishment: "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I must be in my Father's House?" (Other versions say, "Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business?")



In my Father's house, about my Father's business. . . . The two are very connected. Only by being in our Father's presence, including being regularly gathered with our sisters and brothers in faith, learning from God's word, will we know how to be about our Father's business. In fact, coming together to learn together is part of being about our Father's business. This is why we encourage regular worship and study, including Sunday School for our youngest members and confirmation program for our tweens and adolescents. This is also why we will shortly begin preparation for first communion with those who have not yet learned what it means to share in the Lord's Supper.

But being together in the Lord's house is not the sum and substance of being about our Father's business, for God so loved and loves the world, that God sent God's Son into the world and Jesus continues to come into our midst through word and sacrament. Just as Jesus did not confine his ministry to the temple in Jerusalem, but traveled throughout and beyond the borders of the land of Judea, in and among the rich and the poor, so, we, too, are called to be about our Father's business beyond the doors of our church building.

This brings us back to the question: what do you think God would put on God's business card that would remind us and tell the world what it means to be about God's business? Someday I'll share what was on the card I received. Meanwhile, please let me know what you think. Email it, put a note in my box or the collection plate, or think of another way to send it. Then we'll share these thoughts and challenge ourselves to come up with what we would put on our individual and corporate "business cards" and continue our Father's business into the new year.

Many blessings and much joy!

Pastor Ruth



WORSHIP & MUSIC INFORMATION

PASTORAL CARE COVERAGE FOR DECEMBER 25 – JANUARY 3. Since Pastor Ruth is called to work among us on a part-time basis, she occasionally takes time to be away. Pastor Roger Ulrich has graciously offered to provide pastoral care coverage for the week after Christmas. Please call his cell phone at 610-207-8042.

OFFICE CLOSED – The church office will be closed on Friday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD will be celebrated on Sunday, January 10, 2016.

JANUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS – We are in need of the following: Flower sponsor for January 31; Bulletin sponsors for January 10 and 24; and a Communion Set-up volunteer for January 10. Thank you to everyone who signed up.

CHURCH UN-DECORATING will be held on Sunday, January 10th after worship. Your help is needed to take down the Christmas decorations, so please consider staying to help. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION CLASS CONTINUES TO STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT

Are you keeping up with our exciting confirmation class? Have you asked students lately what they've been studying? We have now covered the stories of the exodus, the giving of the law, judges, Ruth, and kings. But we don't just talk about the stories, we think about how they connect with our everyday lives and ask questions like, "Why do we need laws?" "What was it like for Ruth to move to a country where she was considered an outsider?" "Is it possible for someone outside our faith community to actually encourage us to grow in our faith?" "What about kings and other earthly rulers?" "What do people look for in their leaders?" "What makes a truly good leader?" Come January we are on to the Babylonian Captivity and the stories of Daniel and Esther, the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the rise of Rome. This will bring us to the end of the Old Testament, or Chapter 21 in *The Story*.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REORGANIZES AND SCHEDULES WINTER HOUSE CLEANING

Property Committee will meet on January 9th at 10:00 a.m. for an organizational meeting. Anyone interested in serving on this committee is welcome.

On January 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., there will be a meeting of people from the congregation willing to look things over and form a plan for literally cleaning house on February 6th.

February 6th, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., there will be a "work party" to do the actual cleaning including sorting and disposing of things that have accumulated and cleaning up areas not covered in normal weekly maintenance.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee focuses on how we as individuals and a congregation think about and use our time, talents and treasures. This includes clarifying fundraising activities and working with other committees including Property and Special Projects. (Special Projects includes bake sales, dinners, etc.) At present the Stewardship Committee consists of Ken and Josh Keck, Dawn Wengert, Ty Rissmiller and Pastor Ruth. Other interested folks are welcome.

At our December 9th meeting we talked about stewardship of (caring for) self and about things we want to focus on for the near future, including Souper Bowl Sunday, replenishing funds for the parking lot, what we should emphasize for the Lenten offerings, what to recommend for dividing up the 6% we set aside to give away from special projects, and working with Property Committee on the all church clean-up.



CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS for the year ending 2015 should arrive in the mail by the end of January. Please check them over and notify the church office if there are any discrepancies. Thank you.

What's Happening

BIBLE STUDY will be held at Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers on Thursdays, January 14th and January 28th at 1:30 p.m.

LOAVES AND FISHES free community meal and fellowship will be held on Tuesday, January 19th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – Held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:45 p.m. at New Jerusalem UCC, 33 Lyons Road, Fleetwood.

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2016:

“LIVING ABUNDANTLY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: LUTHER AND HIS CATECHISM” **Saturday, January 23rd, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing, PA.** Learning Ministries Day is a chance for members of our congregation to learn together as well as learn how to share the good news about the abundant life we have through Jesus Christ. Ask Josh and Ken who attended last year.

This year the presenter is the Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger, the Director of the Krauth Memorial Library and Professor of the History of Christianity at our seminary in Philadelphia. Betty and Ted heard him at the synod assembly and can tell you he is anything but dull.

Workshops this year include two opportunities to interact with Dr. Krueger as well as: D) Ways to help adults in the congregation connect their Sunday faith with their weekday lives; E) Sharing Between Generations; F) Music and Memory; G) Crafting Luther; H) Using Treasure boxes with the Small Catechism; I) Living out Our Baptism by Caring for Creation; J) Faith and Science in the Parish: What to Do after They Learn About Dinosaurs, Darwin, and the Big Bang; K) Naming, Claiming and Living Out Biblical Identity; L) Learning Programs for All God's People (helping people whose ways of perceiving and learning can be quite different from their peers to feel welcome and be an integral member of their group); M) Praying the Catechism; N) Strengthening the Home-Church Connection; O) Equipping Parents as

Primary Religious Educators; P) Encouraging our Amazing Youth; and Q) Helping Yourself and Others Along the Path of Grief.

The offering collected will go to Lutheran World Relief.

ALL REGISTRATIONS, MUST BE IN BY JANUARY 10th. We can work out carpooling. The registration cost of \$45, which includes lunch, will be covered by our Christian Education funds. See the bulletin board for more details and to sign up. You can also register by contacting Debbie Frey at 610-266-5101 or email at debbie@nepsynod.org.



SCHOOL KITS NEEDED FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Because of the Syrian refugee crisis, school kits are in high demand. Each kit consists of:

- 4 notebooks (8 x 10½, 70 pages each);
- 1 30 centimeter ruler (may have inches on one side, but must have centimeters)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secured together with a rubber band
- 5 black or blue ball point pens (no gel), secured together with a rubber band
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2½ inch eraser
- 1 drawstring backpack style cloth bag approximately 14 x 17 with straps (no standard backpacks)

Since the kits are distributed throughout the world, items must be **new**, and **must not be decorated with** religious symbols, imprinting from a congregation, a flag, patriotic or military symbols, references to the armed forces or camouflage. Remove all excess packaging. Do not enclose in plastic. More information at www.lwr.org/schoolkits.

A DAY OUT FOR ANNA. Anna Sassaman is the daughter of Pastor Jeremiah and Beth Sassaman. Anna was born with a very rare condition called Craniosynostosis and received cranial-facial reconstructive surgery in November 2015 at the age of 8 months old. **Janelle's Restaurant and Catering Hall** has been so kind as to contact Pastor Sassaman's church, St. Paul's Mertztown, to do a **fundraiser** for the Pastor and his family on **Saturday, January 30th** from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to help with the growing medical bills and everyday expenses that insurance does not cover. A Gofundme.com account has also been set up for those who wish to donate, but cannot attend the fundraiser event or who wish to remain anonymous. Simply click on the following link below or go on the internet and type in www.Gofundme.com/AnnaESurgery and the account will pop up with all the information on Anna. 100% of the proceeds from the fundraiser or on Gofundme.com will go to Anna and her family. You may also send donations to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown. Please see the notice on the bulletin board for more details.

PRESENTATIONS AT LUTHER CREST

The public is cordially invited to attend the following free presentations in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104:

- Marla Sell and Janet Panning of Lutheran Children and Family Service on "Lutheran Social Ministry for Newcomers, Past and Present": Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 2:30 p.m.
- Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "Angels": Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 2:30 p.m.
- Dr. William Jennings on "A Critical Look at the Ten Commandments": Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 2:30 p.m.
- A panel discussion and responses with Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann, Dr. William Jennings, and Rev. Dianne Kareha on "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People": Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 2:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest at 610-391-8210.

WORKSHOPS WITH BETH LEWIS, who is the President and CEO of Augsburg Fortress, just announced that she will be in our area early in the new year. Our synod leaders are taking advantage of her trip to the east coast and have asked her to lead three workshops on January 30-31. For each session, Beth will speak for 45 minutes and then allow 45 minutes for questions and answers and practical thinking about how to apply what is learned to your congregation. All are invited to attend any (or all) of these sessions free of charge at the Lutheran Center. Please visit the synod website, www.godslove.org for more information about each workshop and how to register for each. The workshop topics and information are: **Saturday, January 30**, 10:00 a.m. – Noon. "Gutenberg to Google: Effective Use of Technology for Congregations"; **Saturday, January 30**, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. "Generational Differences in the Church"; **Sunday, January 31**, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Grow, Hold & Fold: Turning around faith-based organizations for the 21st century."



We received your 116 hand-knitted hats from New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church just in time to include them in our Christmas at Sea Satchels. We are so grateful. – Peace and Merry Christmas, *Pastor Marsh Drege, Seafarers Int'l. House*

To all of you who brightened our doorstep last week! It was wonderful to see you all and share fellowship! We miss you more than you can imagine! We plan to be at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, but we take one day at a time! – Merry Christmas and Blessings on our Church family – In Christian love, *Phyllis and Karl Fenstermacher*

THANK YOU to New Jerusalem Lutheran Church members and council members for your generous Christmas gift. Thank you for thinking of me this Christmas. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year! – *Korinne Hotzman*

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY FACTS—NOT FEAR



**January 11, 2016 –
Informational Meeting
at the Lutheran Center**

Lutheran Children and Family Service has been resettling Syrian refugees in the Lehigh Valley since before the recent flood of refugees seeking assistance in Europe. At the May 2015 Synod Assembly, voting members heard Abbas Kahlaf, Refugee Resettlement Case Manager, speak about his work finding employment for Syrians then being resettled. He also shared his family's story of resettlement.

Rostered leaders and members of congregations are invited to an information sharing event at the Lutheran Center, 2354 Grove RD, Allentown, on Monday, January 11th, at 2:00 p.m. in order to hear about this ministry. The event is an opportunity to hear the facts about the ministry we Lutherans are providing in this time of heated debate over refugee resettlement. You can also learn how to support the ministry.

Information will be provided by Marla J. Sell, Lead Case Manager for Refugee Resettlement/ Lutheran Congregational Services; the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps Ollikainen, Executive Director/Lutheran Congregational Services; and Janet Panning, MS, Program Director/Lutheran Children and Family Service. They will also be available to answer questions.



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 that may not have heard about the cancellation.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is Sunday, January 24th.

#LUTHERANSTORIES

Our stories connect us to one another and God. Lutherans around the synod are starting to tell their stories as part of the #LutheranStories initiative supported by the synod's Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team. This month the focus is on stories about grace, God's unconditional love for all humankind. #LutheranStories are posted on the synod website (nepasynod.org), Instagram ([@nepsynod.org](https://www.instagram.com/nepsynod.org)) and Twitter ([@nepsynod.org](https://twitter.com/nepsynod.org)). Be inspired and fed by the faith accounts shared by others and consider what story you might have to tell others in your congregation and community.

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS LIST (as of December 3, 2015)

Drinks: regular/decaf coffee, instant regular/decaf coffee, instant tea, fruit juices, juice boxes, bottled water

Paper Products: napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, facial tissues

Personal Hygiene: body lotion, chap stick, baby wipes, hand wipes, feminine products

Snack Items: fruit snacks, gold fish, pretzels, chips, cookies, snack crackers, salsa

Baking Items: cooking oil, sugar, flour, icing

Condiments: mayonnaise, salt, pepper, ketchup, salad dressing, pickles, spicy brown mustard

Cleaning Supplies: laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, disinfectant wipes

Spaghetti sauce/pizza sauce, ramen noodles

Gluten free items

Please Note: At the moment we have an abundance of macaroni and cheese, noodles, canned vegetables (especially green beans, corn, and various other beans), soup, canned fruit, peanut butter and cereal.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

As a reminder, please check dates on packaging. We are unable to use outdated products.

The Brandywine Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support!

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

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care Facilities: Dallas and Anna Angstadt, Cliff Barlet, Samuel Behm, Bertha Bennecoff, Jean Deysher, Karl Fenstermacher, Shirley Hertzog, Drena Kocher, Irene Noll, Warren Reinhart, Betty Stoudt, and Arlene Yob.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Members: Beth Angstadt, Myles Angstadt, Lester Barlet, Randy Cleaver, Betty Eshbach, Erma Guinther, Amanda Herman, Lucille Jones, Diane Keller, Sheila Long, Leon Moyer, Betty Musser, Joanne Pauley, and Joyce Rothermel.

Friends of the congregation: Kathy Adams-Adams & Associates, Jolyn Blankenbiller, Evelyn Collins, Patrick Collins, Greta Davis, Olivia Fenstermacher, Scott Fox, Marilyn Franzi, Bev Guistewite, Denise Haage, Corinne Hersh, Douglas Kelly, Brian Kennedy, Kyle Olinger, Joan Oswald, Russell Roeder, Faith Rothermel, Jerry Shukar, Andrew S., Joshua S., Christine Schwoyer, Donna Schwoyer, Virginia Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Leslie Wegman, Sallie Weil, Judy Werner, and Lisa Ziegler.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: For all our military personnel serving around the world, for areas of our nation enduring drought, for those throughout the world affected by disaster, for refugees and for peace in the world, especially the Middle East and the Ukraine.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: George DeLong, Ralph Harris, Lauren Kinney, Mae Hertzog, Penny Keller, Linda Moyer, and Theresa S.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Hopefully, by now, everyone has received their offering envelopes for the first half of 2016. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office and a new one can be mailed to you. Thank you!

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts
November 30, 2015**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 14,373.17
Thrivent	5,716.35
Checking	5,405.51
Youth	966.62
Fidelity	135,716.19
Cash Reserve	17,347.91
Endowment Fund	11,206.82

* *Endowment monies now invested in ELCA
Mission Investment Fund*

**November 2015 — 'Actual' vs. 'Required'
Income**

	<u>Income Required</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Delta</u>
<u>Income Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,440.42	\$ 9,661.95	\$ 1,221.53

*Actual Income includes \$2,400.00 Estimated Profit
from Shoo-fly Pie Sale*

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2015 Budget
Passed by Congregation*



Pastor Henry G. Fromhartz, who served this congregation from 1976 to 1978, died Saturday, November 14, 2015. He was ordained in this synod in 1926, and initially served Zion Lutheran Church in Womelsdorf until 1976 when he was called to serve Huff's Church/New Jerusalem Lutheran Parish in Barto and Topton. From 1979 until 1983, Pastor Fromhartz served at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland. He retired in 1985. A memorial service will be held at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 370 Junipero Avenue, Long Beach, California 90814. We thank God for gifting the church with this servant.

GET READY FOR EPIPHANY

Many Christian denominations celebrate Epiphany each year on or near January 6th. “Epiphany,” which means “showing forth,” celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

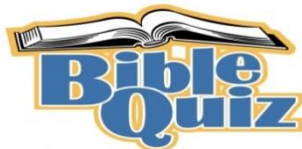
The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.



In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn “The Light of the World Is Jesus.” The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost
In the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday,
His glory shone in.
The Light of the world is Jesus!

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



The beginning of a new year is when many of us make resolutions or try to get our “account” with God in order. If we have offended God by “thought, word or deed,” now is a good time to confess our offenses and to allow God to remove “our transgressions from us.” The Bible says, “... as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.”



In which of the texts below is that promise found?

- A. Matthew 6:14
- B. 1 John 1:9
- C. Philippians 3:13
- D. Psalm 103:12

Answer: D

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

We who claim to be children of God live in a far too violent world. Terrorism, war, random killing and sins too horrible to describe appear all too frequently in the daily news. As Christians what can we do?

In another dark time, just before the outbreak of World War II, King George VI of England went on the radio to offer a Christmas message of encouragement for his people. As part of his remarks, he read a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled “God Knows.”

Here’s a portion of the poem:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied, “Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!” So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east.



We may not always be able to dispel the threatening darkness, but we can walk through it with God for as long as it lasts. Let us remember these words from the popular hymn:

“This is my Father’s World”

O let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

(*This Is My Father’s World* by Maltbie D. Babcock)

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

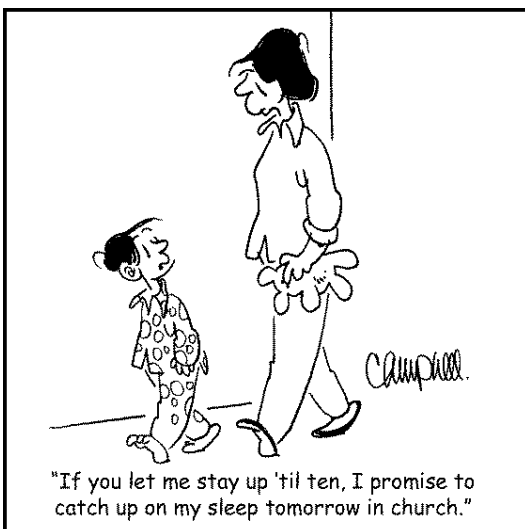


ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 31st, after worship. If there is inclement weather or quorum is not met, the annual meeting will be held the following Sunday, February 7th. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual reports from the committees and to elect new members to council.



At its December 21st meeting council heard committee reports and:

- 1) approved Stewardship Committee's recommendations
 - a) for dates to hold meeting to clean out the church building (listed elsewhere);
 - b) how to divide the 6% of the fundraiser profits among local organizations (see below);
 - c) for a chart to track progress in replenishing funds spent to pave the parking lot;
 - d) hold Souper Bowl Sunday breakfast and collection on February 7th.
 - e) designate the offerings received through the Lenten envelopes for ELCA World Hunger Appeal.
- 2) decided that 6% of this year's profits from fundraisers (approximately \$950) would be divided among Diakon (Topton), Lutheran Children and Family Services (refugee settlement), the Lyons Fire Company, the local Salvation Army, and the congregation's Local Care fund.
- 3) approved the proposed participation in and schedule for the Brandywine Ministerium midweek Lenten services.



WAYS TO START OFF THE NEW YEAR

According to historians, the celebrations of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year's Day.

The early church started to hold religious observances that coincided with pagan celebrations. Some denominations still mark Christ's circumcision on New Year's.

The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.



Modern-day New Year's customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle.

One of the best ways to start off the New Year is by spending time in prayer. Look back on God's many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year's Day.

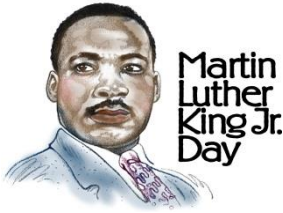
A New Year Wish

May the New Year bring us:
 Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
 Enough trials to keep us strong;
 Enough hope to keep us lively;
 Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
 Enough failure to keep us humble;
 Enough success to keep us eager;
 Enough friends to give us comfort;
 Enough wealth to meet our needs;
 Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
 Enough faith to overcome despair;
 And enough determination to use every day
 and situation somehow for good.

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



FACING INJUSTICE



As the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., approaches, many cities and many churches will recall the courage and challenge of the civil rights leader who

suffered and died for his beliefs.

When he confronted those who dealt out injustice, he and his followers were stopped, jailed, sometimes beaten, ridiculed and threatened. They were called rabble-rousers, Communists, disturbers of the peace and worse. Many people stood by and did nothing.

It is no wonder that Dr. King said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Whatever else we remember about Dr. King, we should recall that he chose not to remain silent in the face of injustice. Can we say the same about ourselves?

When anyone is treated without respect, without fair play, without kindness or Christian love, we must not remain mute. We should follow the suggestion of Dr. King: "With our faith, we will transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

Did You Know?

NOAH'S ARK

The image of an ark, or boat, often shown with pairs of animals, recalls the story of Noah and the "Great Flood" in Genesis 6-8. The floodwaters represent God's judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of God's gracious power to save and redeem.

Christians see in this account a foreshadowing of Jesus baptism into the life he brings: "And baptism, which [God's rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you..." (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV)



3	Dennis Guinther
5	Wilma Herman
6	Bertha Bennecoff
10	Norma Conrad
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



- 5 Daniel and Joanne Pauley (25 years)
- 7 Richard and Goldie Carl (60 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

3	10:00 AM	Epiphany of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
*10	10:00 AM	Baptism of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
17	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany (G)
*24	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany (G)
*31	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (G)

February

♦ 7	10:00 AM	Transfiguration of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W) ▪ Souper Bowl Sunday (breakfast)
10	11:00 AM & 7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion (P) ▪ Imposition of Ashes – New Jerusalem Lutheran
14	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent (P)
17	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek (P) – New Jerusalem UCC
*21	10:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent (P)
24	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek (P) – New Jerusalem Lutheran
28	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent (P)

March

2	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek (P) – Christian Congregation, Mertztown
* 6	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion (P)
9	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek (P) – Christ-Mertz Lutheran Church
13	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent (P)
16	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek (P) – St. Peter's UCC, Topton
*20	10:00 AM	Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday – Holy Communion (P)
23	7:00 PM	Lenten Midweek (P) – St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown
24	11:00 AM & 7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion (P) (both services at Christ-Mertz Lutheran Church)
25	11:00 AM & 7:00 PM	Good Friday (both services at Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers)
27	10:00 AM	Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day – Holy Communion (W)

FELLOWSHIP DATES:

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



GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!

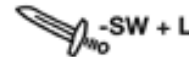


LET THERE BE LIGHT

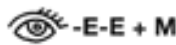
In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

"Y O U , _____ , A R E



_____ ; T H E



M Y



D + _____ + _____ - T + S

I N T O _____ ."



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

An open letter to the Muslim American community from Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop of the ELCA.

Dec. 11, 2015

Dear Muslim Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace to you. I am writing on behalf of many Christians in this country who wish to share a word of solidarity, love and hope with you in these difficult days.

In this season of Advent, we, your Christian neighbors, are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who commanded that “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... [and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31, NRSV).

In our love for you, our Muslim neighbors, we are distressed by the ways in which you are being forced to bear the fears held by many in our nation. Therefore, we renew our commitment to find even more effective ways to protect and defend you from words and actions that assault your safety and well-being. We believe God calls us to resist what is divisive, discriminatory, xenophobic, racist or violent, and we want you to look to us as allies and friends.

The global refugee and migrant crisis and the acts of terror committed in this country and around the world are challenges that demand our collective efforts and our common prayers. Therefore, we will seek to stand shoulder to shoulder with you as agents of peace, justice, understanding, welcome and reconciliation for the sake of the world that God so loves.

In this holy season, when we anticipate the light that the darkness cannot overcome (John 1:5, NRSV), we are reminded of God’s gift of life abundant for all. Together with you, we are committed to building a stronger society based on the dignity of each human being, the value of diversity, the holiness of creation and the common good. We pledge our partnership and invite our local communities into continued dialogue and engagement to this end.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Always Being Made New: Campaign for the ELCA

About 75% of the 272 congregations in the synod have made contributions to the "Campaign for the ELCA." Three specific ministries are presently being emphasized:

- Renew Existing Congregations
- Establish New Congregations
- Expand Disability Ministries

If one of these is a priority for your congregation, you can make a designated gift to that ministry.

The campaign goal, established by Synod Assembly action in 2014, is 100% congregation participation. This a realistic and attainable goal which can be met and sustained through 2018 with your support!

If you need additional information about the campaign, contact Guy Ehler, Synod Campaign Coordinator via email at guy.ehler@rcn.com.



Symbol of a Proud Past

In 2010 Christ, Schoenersville came to a momentous decision. Faced with declining numbers and finances, the congregation wanted to preserve their ministry for the future rather than allow it gradually to fade away; so they voted to merge with St. John, Bath, a larger and more sustainable congregation.

Christ was founded in 1780 as Zion Lutheran and Reformed Church. They began in a log building on what now is Airport Road in Allentown. In 1828 the name was changed to Christ Church; and in 1963 the Lutheran and Reformed churches dissolved their union. The present structure on Grove Road was started in 1966; and in 1968 the church bell from the 1872 brick church was installed in the steeple of the new church building.

When the congregation decided to merge, they generously offered their building to the synod; and the building now houses The Lutheran Center. Dave Fehnel from Christ is a member of the synod property committee. Earlier this year there was a discussion about what to do with the bell; and at Dave's urging, St. John agreed to take it.

Moving the 1600 pound bell was quite a project. It required a cement slab to be installed at St. John, and a front end loader was needed to lift it. But it all worked out, and the bell arrived at its new location in time for a celebration of the 5th anniversary of Christ joining St. John. It now sits as a symbol of a proud past and a ministry preserved by a congregation deciding to merge rather than close.

Always
being made
New.

The Campaign for the ELCA.

ONLINE Resources

Abbey of the Arts

Transformative living through contemplative and expressive arts.

This month's suggestion is Abbey of the Arts, a virtual global online monastery offering pilgrimages, online classes and retreats, reflections, and resources which integrate contemplative spiritual practice and creative expression with monastic spirituality. Visit their website at <http://abbeyofthearts.com>

Save the Date !

On May 7, 2016, the Creation Care Task Force will be hosting a kayak/canoe trip down the Schuylkill River. Bishop Zeiser will join us on the river as we live out our Baptismal calling "to care for the world God made." This intergenerational event will be open to the whole Synod. Look for more information soon!



Bear Creek Camp

God is doing mighty things at Bear Creek Camp, your Lutheran camp in NEPS! The summer program received a breath of new life with an increased focus on faith while also teaching campers about God's creation, all while having tremendous amounts of fun! The wonderful summer staff was devoted and committed to share the good news of Christ to each and every camper with the hopes that when the campers return to their congregations they would continue God's good works. Over the past three years the Camp has seen an increase in summer attendance of 44%! In fact, this was an increase in campers for the third consecutive year, something that has not happened at Bear Creek Camp in over 20 years. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod has been a tremendous supporter of the ministry at Bear Creek Camp. This past summer a total of 314 campers came from NEPS, which is an increase of 23% since 2012!

If your congregation has a camper who can't wait until summer to come to BCC, CONNECT, our Winter Camp, will be held in January and February. And our Summer 2016 registration will open on December 15th. For more information on Bear Creek Camp or to register for a camp, please visit our website (<http://bearcreekcamp.org>). Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Bear Creek Camp.



JANUARY SERVICE ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETERS	READERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
1/3	Gladys Kline	Gladys Kline	Dan and Joanne Pauley	Dale Schwoyer
1/10	Tara Basta	Dawn Wengert	Dale Schwoyer	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
1/17	Erma Gajewski	Sara Jane Beshore	Keith Boyer	Keith Boyer
1/24	Joshua Keck	Roy Merkel	The Bailey Family	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
1/31	Denny Beshore	Ty Rissmiller	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Linda Moyer

ALTAR GUILD: Cheryl Wiltrout

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Gladys Kline

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Gladys Kline


COMMUNION BREAD: 1/3 – Gladys Kline; 1/10 – Dale Schwoyer

COMMUNION SET-UP: 1/3 – Faye Dey; 1/10 – *(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 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 Epiphany of Our Lord/Second Sunday of Christmas ▪ Holy Communion	4	5 6:30pm-Choir 7:30pm-Bells	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7	8	9 10:00am-Property Committee Meeting
10 Baptism of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Caleb Keller Baptism ▪ Christmas Un-decorating ▪ Fellowship after worship 12:00-2:00pm-Confirmation Class and Sunday School	11 5:30pm-Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting	12 6:30pm-Choir 7:30pm-Bells	13	14	15	16 10:00-11:30am- Property Committee meet with members of congregation
17 Second Sunday after Epiphany	18 7:00pm-Council Meeting	19 5:30-7:00pm-Loaves and Fishes Meal 6:30pm-Choir 7:30pm-Bells	20 11:30am-Fellowship Lunches at Janelle's	21	22	23 8:30am-3:00pm- Learning Ministries' Day, Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing
24 Third Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Fellowship after worship 12:00-2:00pm-Confirmation Class	25	26 6:30pm-Choir 7:30pm-Bells	27	28	29	30 12:00am-6:00pm-"A Day Out for Anna" (Sassaman) at Janelle Hall
31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Annual Meeting after worship (snow date Feb. 7) ▪ Fellowship after worship						