

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net

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

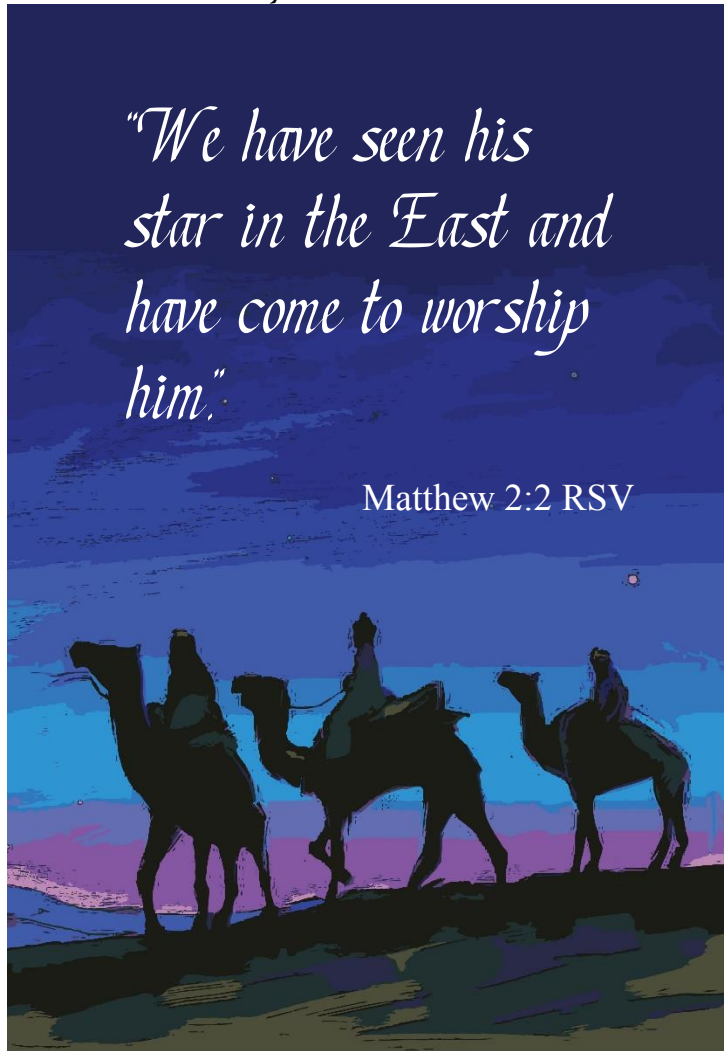
Office Phone: 610.682.6064

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

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

*"We have seen his
star in the East and
have come to worship
him."*

Matthew 2:2 RSV



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,

Songs of thankfulness and praise

“Songs of thankfulness.” There are many who are thankful that Christmas is over. I don’t know how many break out in song, but there are some people and stores who even start taking down their decorations before New Year’s Day. But not us! Our songs of thankfulness and praise continue for the “12 Days of Christmas” and lead us straight into Epiphany, when we celebrate how God’s presence in the world through Jesus was made manifest.

*Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise. . . .
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest. – ELW 310*

Manifest. As a verb it means “to display.” As an adjective, it means “clear or obvious to the mind or eye.” Synonyms include: plain, apparent, evident, explicit, transparent, undisguised, unmistakable, noticeable, perceptible, visible, recognizable. Starting with Epiphany and continuing until Lent begins our readings and our songs about how God’s presence became manifest, apparent to those around, that God had entered the world in the flesh of Jesus whom we call Christ. Christopher Wordsworth lists some of these:

*Manifested by the star to the sages from afar. . . .
Manifest in Jordan’s stream, prophet, priest and king supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;. . . .
Manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill. . . .*

The good news for us in the time after Christmas and after Epiphany is the same good news we celebrated on Christmas Day: God loved the world *so much* that God gave God’s only Son. God’s Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, including us. Jesus came that we, and all, might have life and have it abundantly.

Now the questions are: How is God’s Spirit making this good news manifest among us now? How will God’s Spirit continue to make this good news abundantly clear in this new year? How is God’s Spirit calling us to make this good news *plain, apparent, evident, explicit, transparent, undisguised, unmistakable, noticeable, perceptible, visible, and recognizable*? Are we as individuals and a congregation open to being part of the great surprise that God’s gift of love and forgiveness is freely given, given in concrete, physical ways as well as ways that touch the heart and spirit?

In this season, take time to wonder about and look for ways God’s Spirit is making the good news of God’s love manifest. Instead of or in addition to New Year’s resolutions, take time to wonder about those many synonyms for *manifest* and identify – even write down – ways God’s Spirit *might work through you* this season to make God’s love manifest to others.

*Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
Grace to imitate thee now and be pure as pure art thou;
That we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest. – ELW 310*

Pastor Ruth

A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM PASTOR RUTH



Photo by R. L. Doty, Vienna, 2018

*So many search for a place of welcome,
where will hope be born?
So many long for food to satisfy body and soul,
where will hope be born?
So many seek support from family, from friends, from anyone who will care,
where will love be born?
So many look for a brighter future, not just for themselves,
but for children, grandchildren and generations to come,
where will hope be born?
So many crave more meaning to life,
for less distraction or time spent on what seems pointless,
where will hope be born?
This world cries out for justice, equity, true freedom and peace,
and so we, the many, pray:*

*“O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.”*

Text of Hymn: Philip Brooks, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

May the blessings of God’s presence fill your hearts and homes this new year!

Pastor Ruth and Rick

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at their December 10th meeting:

- 840 pies were baked on December 3-5 and an additional 112 pies at a special bake on December 10.
- Tentative dates for the spring shoo-fly bakes are: March 25-27; April 29-30 & May 1; June 3-5.
- The AED (automated external defibrillator) was installed on November 25. It is located near the greeter's table in the narthex. Arrangements will be made for training on how to use it.
- Updating the guidelines and fees for the use of the church building for weddings, funerals, and other events were discussed.
- 6% of the profit from fundraising for 2018 is estimated to be between \$1,200 and \$1,300. \$100 will be donated to the Topton American Legion for the Honor Guard and the rest will be divided equally between the Salvation Army, the Lyons Fire Company, Brandywine Heights Elementary School Backpack Buddies program, and the Brandywine Food Pantry.

JANUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Flower sponsors for January 13, 20, 27 and Bulletin sponsors for January 13, 20, 27. Thank you to all who signed up.

JANUARY GREETERS SIGN-UP SHEET

Greeters are needed for January 13 and 20. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help.

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING

Now that Christmas is over, it's time to take down the decorations. Please plan to stay after the worship service **on Sunday, January 6th** to help put everything away until next Christmas.

BELL AND ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, January 8.

Bell Choir will resume at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Choir at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the February 2019 newsletter is **Sunday, January 20**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

FAITH FORMATION EVENT – January 20

CHURCH DIRECTORY

An updated church directory is available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to pick up a copy. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

You should have received your new offering envelopes for the first half of 2019 in the mail. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office and a new one can be mailed. Thank you!

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements for the year ending 2018 should arrive in your mailbox by the end of January. Please check them over and notify the church office if there are any discrepancies. Thank you!

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 and be sure to join us.

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY – January 26,

2019 – Be Not Afraid—Being the Church in a Changing World – At this year's Learning Ministries Day, a wide variety of workshops, such as, "Singing the Liturgy in the ELW," "Social Media-Basic and Advanced," "Family Ministry Ideas," "Bible Study on Fear," and "History of

Spirituality” will be offered. Workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon. Participants can choose to learn about new resources, learn a skill, or choose a workshop for their own personal growth. A lunch is provided.

Learning Ministries Day will be held at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, on **Saturday, January 26 starting at 8:30 a.m. with registration, and concluding at 3:00 p.m.** (Snow Date Saturday, February 2nd, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) Registration forms and complete informational materials are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost for the event is \$45/person. For more information, contact Pastor Ruth.

Thank You

To Philip Fabian, his Scout Troop #86 of Alburdis, and his family who, as part of his Eagle Scout Project, raised the funds and installed an AED in five community churches, including our building. We will shortly announce a time for dedicating this life-saving device as well as training on how to use it. Congratulations, Philip, on completing this project. Blessings as you move on and continue to demonstrate care for others.

To all the members of New Jerusalem, thank you for the cards, gift cards, and other kind, caring and generous remembrances you shared with me this holy season. Most especially, thank you for all the ways you support ministry and my part in it at New Jerusalem. May God continue to bless us with hearts that are open and responsive to God’s great love shone to us through Jesus, God’s greatest gift of all. – *Pastor Ruth*

Thank you to the congregation and church council for your generous Christmas gift. Your thoughtfulness is very appreciated. Blessings for the new year. – *Faye Dey*

To the members, council members, and friends of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you so much for your Christmas gifts, cards, and Christmas wishes. It is very much appreciated and very thoughtful of you to remember me at this wonderful time of year. Blessings for a happy and healthy New Year to you all!

Also, thank you to those members who have assisted in the assembly of the newsletter throughout the year. I am very grateful for your help and couldn’t have done it without your assistance. – *Korinne Hotzman*

Pastor Doty, you helped make a big impact in our community at the October 18 Berks Festival of Faith “Free Super Burger Supper!” thanks to New Jerusalem Lutheran Church. – *The Berks Festival of Faith Volunteer Team*

IT’ A WRAP!

Imagine you were apart from your family on a major holiday like Ramadan, Thanksgiving, or Hanukkah. It would be depressing. This is why members of New Jerusalem partner with Seafarers International to bring joy to sailors who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas or any other holiday. Through this ELCA affiliated program, our port chaplains bring satchels filled with gifts to the ships for the holiday. Every crew member on a ship regardless of their faith or nationality will open their satchels, each containing:

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)
- Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or white gym
- One T-Shirt (size M-L-XL)
- One Knitted Winter Cap (matching scarf optional)
- One Can of Nuts or Large Bar of Chocolate
- A Holiday or Christmas Card

This year our members sent **16 scarves** and **27 hats** they knitted or crocheted with love for these men. What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers ashore have taken the time to share the spirit of Christmas with these otherwise forgotten seafarers! This effort is truly an example of “God’s work, our hands.” With each item we make, we pray that the recipients will sense that they are also wrapped with God’s love.

UPDATE ON THE POTATO PROJECT, also known as IHartHarvest. In 2019, 683 volunteers, 72,000 pounds of potatoes, 8,568 pounds of carrots, and 11,907 pounds of corn were harvested using donated land. The New Jerusalem Faith Formation group cut 50 pounds of eyes in the spring and grew a few potato plants in buckets, but were rained out from helping to harvest. Chester, Lehigh, and Berks County foodbanks distributed the produce to local families.

INCELEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In the event church needs to be cancelled, you can listen to WFMZ, WAEB 790AM, or watch Channel 69 news. You may also call the church office at 610.682.6064 and there will be a recorded message on the answering machine on Sunday morning if the service or any events are cancelled.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Samuel P. Behm who passed away on Saturday, November 17, 2018. He was buried in Hope Cemetery, Dryville.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Betty L. (Heffner) Stump who passed away Saturday, December 29, 2018. A celebration of her resurrection was held on Saturday, January 5, at the church. She is buried in the New Jerusalem Cemetery.

NEWS & EVENTS in the Community

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

On **Tuesday, January 8, at 7 p.m.** Rev. Shayna Watson presents "From Black Face to Black Panther: How Pop Culture Mediums Offer a Framework for Repair and Reconciliation." Held at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main Street, Kutztown.

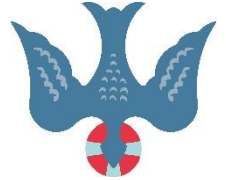
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FORUMS

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 **January 15, 2019** – *New to Grief: Tear Soup*. On **February 19, 2017** – *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.

Did You Know?

DESCENDING DOVE

A dove is a prominent symbol of the Holy Spirit. When the dove is shown flying downward, it reminds us of Jesus' baptism, when, the gospel writers tell us, the Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. Doves also symbolize baptism is general, because many Christian denominations teach that the Holy Spirit and its gifts are bestowed at baptism. Sometimes a dove is depicted with a three-ray nimbus around its head, indicating that it is a member of the Trinity. Doves are also commonly used as a sign of peace.



KINGFISHER FAITH

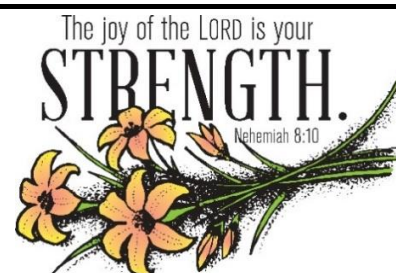
In a video on his publisher's website, Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! "And he's the king fisher!" Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts – maybe dozens! – before something works out.



God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don't seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. "What's the point?" we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: "Maybe number 37 is the charm!"

In the words of St. Paul (and mixing fishing and farming metaphors): "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV).

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



READING RESOLUTIONS

Every January, many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That's a worthy goal, but God doesn't require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, he tells us to simply be in his Word – and thus be with him – so he can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of his love and forgiveness. God's Word is a precious gift, but we need to "unwrap" it!



F. B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering!) Scripture: "Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed...entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate...your life."

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

LESSONS IN WISE FAITH

"The Magi teach us true faith," said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were "off the mark," coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a "royal palace." Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight "so utterly out of keeping with a king" – a poor young woman and child, in a "poor hut" – that one might expect them to head straight home. "But," declares Luther, "with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart," bowing to worship and honor the Savior.



– Based on Luther's sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), *Luther's Works*

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see."

—Roy T. Bennett

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts November 30, 2018

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 22,298.96
Thrivent	8,231.53
Checking	7,007.26
Youth	404.74
Fidelity	133,552.14
Cash Reserve	14,215.08
Mission Investment	11,347.92
Local Care	<u>1,608.75</u>
	Total \$ 198,666.38

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **November 30, 2017** \$ 210,967.63

November 2018 – 'Actual' vs. 'Required'

<u>Income</u>			
	Income	Required	Actual
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,779.58	\$ 8,626.00 *	\$ (153.58)

*Actual Income Includes: \$3,200.00 ESTIMATED INCOME from Shoo-fly Pie Sale

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

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

\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Project
\$ 22,423.54 Funds Received to offset expenses

?? Bible Quiz ??

What did Jesus say brings greater joy in heaven than 99 righteous people?

- The singing of angels
- One sinner who repents
- 100 righteous people
- None of the above



Answer: B (See Luke 15:7)

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, Dale Schwoyer, and Family and friends of Betty Stump.

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

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

- Edith Lovejoy Pierce

**BIRTHDAYS
 THIS MONTH**

- 3 David Moyer, Sr.
- 5 Wilma Herman
- 6 Bertha Bennecoff
- 10 Norma Conrad
- 14 Holly Allen
- 14 Keith Boyer
- 15 Myles Angstadt
- 16 Lester Barlet, Jr.
- 20 Roy Merkel
- 21 Jonathan Allen
- 29 Darla Stout
- 30 Ted Eshbach
- 30 Lloyd Moyer

**ANNIVERSARIES
 THIS MONTH**

- 5 Daniel and Joanne Pauley (28 years)
- 17 Gary and Carrie Paige Lambert (5 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.



STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

O God, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. – Psalm 90:12

What does it mean to count our days? Certainly, the poet who wrote Psalm 90:12 was thinking of more than arithmetic, which may not necessarily gain us a wise heart. Wisdom comes from perspective, from painful introspection and prayerful deliberation.

We count in order to know not only how many days we have *lived*, but to ponder how many days we might have *left*. Counting, we remember that we are finite creatures whose lives march forward in steady 24-hour steps, carrying us from birth to death. Knowing, then, that our days are numbered, we appreciate each one more fully.

We count our days to gain the wisdom that every day is sacred; every day presents opportunities to live more fully in relationship with God and our neighbors; every day is for love and joy and peace and fulfillment. Yet it's all too easy to let the days slip away.

This month consider a focus on stewardship of your time – how you spend every day God gives you. Here is a “to do” list for making the most of every day:

Pray: Begin each day communicating with the creator of the universe, meditating on Scripture or a wise Christian author. Even 10 minutes. End by praying Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Care: Convey through word or deed how much you care about someone in your life. Call up an old friend or relative. Invite a co-worker to lunch.

Help: Look for some way to assist someone. Volunteer. Hold a door open for someone entering a store behind you. Stop for a pedestrian who wants to cross the street.

Enrich: Find something that will deepen your knowledge, understanding or appreciation of the world. Read a poem or book. Listen to a sermon podcast or educational news program.

Stop: That's right, do nothing. For at least 10 minutes (use your smart phone timer) sit quietly, breathe deeply and try to clear the busy thoughts from your mind. Open your spirit to God's presence.

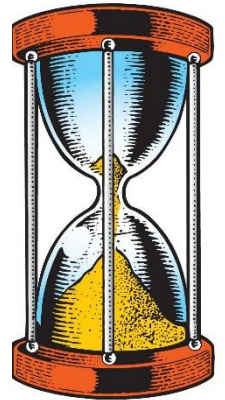
Be healthy: Do something to increase your physical health, such as eating a nutritious meal or taking a walk.

Pray: End every day thanking the creator of the universe for another wonderful day. A day you have counted and that you have made count.

Focus on stewardship of time and see how your own life will change. Make it a permanent part of your discipleship.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2018, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org and serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.



THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January

* 6	10:00 AM	Epiphany of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W) ▪ Church Un-decorating
13	10:00 AM	Baptism of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
* 20	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany (G) ▪ Faith Formation after worship
27	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany (G)

February

◆ 3	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Holy Communion (G) ▪ Souper Bowl of Giving Breakfast (before worship)
10	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (G) ▪ Faith Formation after worship
* 17	10:00 AM	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (G)
24	10:00 AM	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany (G) ▪ Annual Meeting after worship

March

* 3	10:00 AM	Transfiguration of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
6	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (P)
10	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent (P)
13	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P)
* 17	10:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent (P)
20	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P)
24	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent (P)
27	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P)
* 31	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent (P)

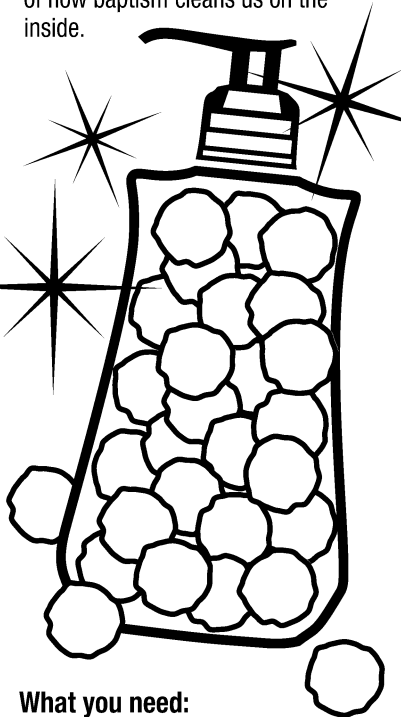
FELLOWSHIP DATES:

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



Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefore buried with him
through baptism into death in order that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a _____.

Romans 6:4, NIV

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: f i e l e w n, n e w l i f e

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
1/6	Tara Basta	Sara Jane Beshore	Dallas and Nancy Bennecoff	Dale Schwoyer
1/13	TBA	Gladys Kline	Dale Schwoyer	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
1/20	TBA	Roy Merkel	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
1/27	Josh Keck	Dawn Wengert	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>

ALTAR GUILD: Cheryl Wiltrout and Gladys Kline

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Gladys Kline

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Faye and Larry Dey

COMMUNION BREAD: 1/6 – Gladys Kline; 1/13 – Cheryl Wiltrout

COMMUNION SET-UP: 1/6 – Cheryl Wiltrout; 1/13 – Cheryl Wiltrout

COUNCILPERSON: Cheryl Wiltrout

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

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	3	4 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	5
6 Epiphany of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship ▪ Church Un-decorating	7 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	9 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	10	11 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Stewardship Meeting after worship	14 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	15 10:00am-Bereavement Support Forum, Diebert Hall 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm-Theology with a Twist, Kutztown Tavern 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	16 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17	18 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	19
20 Second Sunday after Epiphany ▪ Fellowship ▪ Faith Formation Event after Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	22 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	23 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	24	25 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	26 8:30am-3:00pm- Learning Ministries' Day
27 Third Sunday after Epiphany	28 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	30 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	31		

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Learning Ministries Day Saturday, January 26

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven
(snow date: February 2).



The keynote speaker is Elsayed "Steve" Elmarzouky, spokesperson for the Reading Muslim Community.

Steve is a Reading area restaurateur, past president of the Islamic Center of Reading, and chaplain in the correctional and healthcare systems in Berks County.

He speaks to many audiences about his personal journey of faith as a practicing Muslim in Egypt and the U.S., and how his understanding of Islam reflects principles familiar to all people of faith.

Workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon. Participants can choose to learn about new resources, learn a skill, or choose a workshop for their own personal growth.

LM Day is a wonderful time to meet other Lutherans in our synod - youth and adults alike - and to do some networking and glean ideas from one another. A lunch is provided for participants.

For more information and to register, please visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/event/learning-ministries-day-2019>.

ELCA Youth Leadership Summit 2018



[Two youth from our synod, Gianna Valenti from Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre and Ben Knox from Hope, Reading plus Pastor Becca Middeke-Conlin, St Paul's Easton attended the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Ashland Nebraska. The following is a writeup by Gianna.]

At the beginning of this year, if you asked me where I'd be this November, I would have thought anywhere **but** Nebraska. However, I am glad I ended up in the chilly, midwestern state at the beginning of November; for if I hadn't, I would not have learned so many new things, met so many new people, and grown so much closer to God.

This year's ELCA Youth Leadership Summit was all about Advocacy, more specifically Lutheran Advocacy. Throughout the weekend we had multiple speakers talking about many topics, including Environmental Conservation, World Hunger, AMMPARO, Women's equality, Latinix & African-Descent ministries, and LGBTQ+ acceptance in the church and the world. Each station opened my eyes about what I am capable of doing for the world with the help of God. Personally, the speakers talking about racial injustice and LGBTQ+ acceptance touched my soul the most; I will be working towards a more accepting future!

Besides the overall theme, I found joy in meeting other Lutherans from across the country. Within the large camp where we stayed, I met so many amazing people and learned about their vast and different lives and cultures. The group of girls I stayed with and the group I prayed with were all amazing people that I greatly wish to meet again!

Did your congregation receive the January monthly mailing?

If you did not, please contact us at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

Perhaps there is no email on file for your congregation, or there may have been some other problem.

The synod recognizes that this transition may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we are trying our best to make it as smooth as possible. Thank you for your patience.

Brenda Stauffer Retires



Brenda Stauffer, administrative assistant to Bishop Zeiser, retired at the end of December.

Since beginning her work at the synod office in 2009, Brenda has been responsible for maintaining leadership rosters, providing forms/letters/certificates for congregation leadership transitions, managing the computer database, providing clerical support to the bishop, and managing his appointment schedule.

She also kept notes of the staff meetings, monitored office supplies, and prepared and distributed the annual "Confidential Report to the Bishop."

Brenda has been a trusted colleague, faithful worker, and an effective administrator. We thank her for her dedicated years of service and we wish her lots of joy in retirement.

Kristen Glass Perez New Muhlenberg College Chaplain



I am thrilled to be called as Chaplain at Muhlenberg College where I started on June 15, 2018. I am also very thankful for the hospitality shown to me from both the college community and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod as I begin this new call.

Before coming to Muhlenberg, I served as Chaplain and Director of Vocational Exploration at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in the Northern Illinois Synod. Prior to that, I served as Director for Young Adult Ministry for the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America in Chicago, Illinois.

My "home" synod is the Minneapolis Area Synod, where I grew up and the majority of my family still lives. It is fun for me to be an East Coast resident for the first time and to experience the beauty and unique setting of the Lehigh Valley!

As I begin this new call, I am impressed with Muhlenberg College's commitment to spiritual exploration across a variety of religious and non-religious traditions and am excited about working with a religious life team that serves the entire community. I understand the Chaplain's Office to be the perfect place to offer space for hospitality, reflection, and innovation as an integral part of campus life.

I am also intrigued about the very real possibilities for collaboration across the college and the synod to explore intersecting questions of meaning, purpose, and identity. I believe that college is the perfect time to find the liminal or "in-between" spaces where students explore foundational questions about who they are, what they like and don't like, and how understanding their own answers to these questions will help them to make an impact on the needs of their various communities.

I am delighted to join both the Muhlenberg College community and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and begin our work and life together.