

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



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 Friends,

What do a star, a calendar for 2021, and a new box of crayons have in common? Here's a hint:

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are.

What do a star, a calendar for 2021 and a new box of crayons have in common? I think it is *wonder*.

As we gaze into the heavens on a clear night, how many of us wonder about the vastness of the universe and our place in it? Do you look for a special star or one you've never seen before? Do you think of the poem: "Starlight, star bright, I wish I were, I wish I might, have the wish I make tonight?" Do you even venture to make a wish?

As we look at a new calendar, we often wonder what the new year will bring.

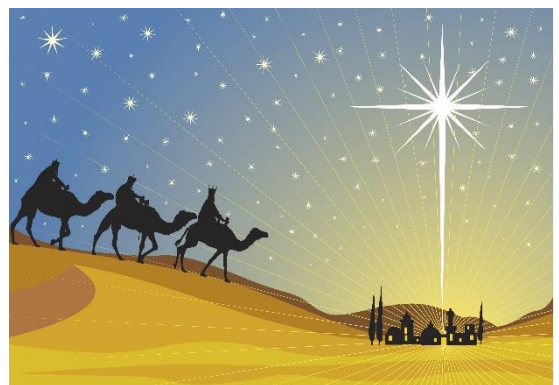
When you think about when you were young and opened a new box of crayons, do you remember staring in wonder at all the beautiful colors, looking to see which might be your favorites, thinking about how each could be used, and dreaming about the creations you would make with them?

Even as many of us are glad to see the end of 2020, we certainly wonder what 2021 will bring. Will the pandemic finally be over? If so, how soon? We try to imagine what the new normal will look like, and, what the long-lasting effects on our lives and our world will be.

My friends, Epiphany is the season of light, symbolized by the star the wise ones followed to find the new king. This year we will celebrate the season of Epiphany for the entire month of January. May it be for us a time to intently search for, celebrate, and share signs of the Christ, the one who brings light to the dark places of our lives and world. May this Epiphany season and this year be for us a time to not only wonder, but allow the Spirit to use us to create and color a future that will reveal what God has always desired for God's creation.

May God fill the days of your new year with peace and joy and wonder.

Pastor Ruth



NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our council meeting on December 14:

- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, brought to the attention of council an invoice received from the offering envelope vendor, One Write. He brought up the cost to mail them, his phone calls with the vendor and the post office. Denny suggested alternatives. Council will discuss this matter at the next council meeting.
- Council agreed with the Worship & Music Committee recommendation to hold worship services via Zoom for the time being based on the current rising coronavirus cases.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group has finished its study of the Book of Acts. We plan to start studying the Letter to the Galatians. Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, January 11, 18, and 25 at 11:00 a.m.** Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

THREADS FOR OTHERS

Keep on knitting. If you need material to make masks or yarn for cowls and hats for seafarers, let Pastor Ruth know.



COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly. On **Thursday, January 7, at 10:00 a.m.** the group will get together downstairs at church to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. Pages provided. Feel free to bring your own supplies, though colored pencils and markers will also be provided. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.

If you are interested, please let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know. Not able to get to church or don't feel comfortable getting together there? Just let them know and pages will be sent to you and you can visit with other members by phone.

WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

As we continue to monitor the pandemic in our area, the Worship & Music Committee has made the decision to begin worshipping via Zoom every Sunday. Worship will be held via **Zoom on Sundays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 10:00 a.m.**

Information on how to connect for Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other methods is available. If you are not already receiving information about how to connect, please contact the church office.

Bulletins are being mailed or emailed to those who request them so that they can worship at home. Those not able to join us for our Zoom worship services on Sunday mornings, can watch the services on our Facebook page or on our website <https://newjerusalemchurch.org> under the "Zoom Worship Services" tab. We actually know that people who are not members are joining us in worship through these means, so this has become an opportunity for sharing the good news with others, an opportunity for what is known as evangelism.

If you would like to receive a bulletin via mail or email, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or njelchurch@windstream.net.

Bulletins are also available on our website: <http://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>.

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the February 2021 newsletter is **Sunday, January 17**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports from the Council President, Worship & Music, Property, Stewardship, Fellowship & Activities, Mutual Ministry, Communion Set-up, and Altar Guild committees are due to the church office by **January 17**.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements for year ending 2020 should be arriving in your mailbox by the end of January. Please check them over carefully and notify the church office if you notice any discrepancies. Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING

New Jerusalem's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 31**, immediately following our Zoom worship service. While the purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual reports from the committees and elect new members to council, it will also be an opportunity to join in the beginning stages of discerning the future of this congregation.

For over 180 years God has not only blessed this congregation, but has also blessed countless others through its ministries. At a time when so much in our world has changed and continues to change, all communities of faith are becoming increasingly aware that doing "business as usual" is no longer as effective as it once was for meeting the needs and longings of those around us. Many are also discovering new opportunities and new methods.

This situation is not new for God's people. Throughout the ages God has called and enabled God's people to adapt to new situations so that the mission of sharing God's love could continue. As descendants of the Reformation, Lutherans are especially aware that not only are there times when things need major change, but that God helps God's people discern what needs to happen.

At New Jerusalem we are particularly aware that the number of those who can and are willing to shoulder the responsibilities of ministry and leadership has been decreasing. Many who are serving are tired, need support and even a rest. In addition, the current financial situation tells us it is important to re-evaluate our ministry now, while we still have the resources to do so.

Discernment and transitions take time. Council has not only become aware that we need to engage in this process in earnest, but that God speaks through the thoughts and dreams and wisdom of many voices. Please join us in this process of discernment.

A quorum of 25 voting members is needed for this meeting. Please spread the word to other members and encourage them to join us.

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR BISHOP-ELECT CHRISTOPHER DEFOREST

Because of safety concerns related to COVID-19, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has agreed with synod leadership to postpone the installation of Bishop-Elect Christopher deForest until a more suitable time. Please continue to visit the synod website at www.godslove.org for updates.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15.00 for a month. If you would like to sponsor any of the available dates below, please leave a message on the church answering machine with your dedication. Thank you!

Since the pandemic limits our ability to gather, we are now mailing bulletins to members. The cost for that is about \$45 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

Bulletin Sponsors for January:

January 3 – *sponsor needed*

January 10 – *sponsor needed*

January 17 – *sponsor needed*

January 24 – *sponsor needed*

January 31 – *sponsor needed*

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for January:

Sponsor needed

PASTORAL CARE DURING THE CURRENT SITUATION

Pastor Ruth is available via phone and electronic means to provide care to anyone in our congregation or seeking care from us. Currently she is not entering hospitals or nursing homes. At times she has been able to "meet" and even offer communion while standing outside a window or door and speaking on the phone. Please continue to let her know when someone enters the hospital or when anyone is experiencing a change in health or situation.

Please note that pastoral care services (chaplains) are available at each hospital to support and attend to patients' diverse spiritual needs. So even if Pastor Ruth cannot or does not deem it wise to enter a facility, care is available. Some of our parishioners have reported excellent care from these servants and, at times, when given permission, pastors and chaplains are in dialogue to enhance that care.

OLEY FAIR

New Jerusalem received a check for \$300 from the Oley Fair. Even though the Fair was canceled for 2020, the Oley Fair board voted to donate \$300 to the non-profit organizations that support them in their food stands each year. They say they could not do it without our help. Mark your calendars now! Next year will be the 74th Oley Fair and the dates are September 16, 17, and 18, 2021.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AND THRIVENT GRANTS



These four seafarers received their Christmas-at-Sea satchels and know that they are not forgotten during the Holidays and at Christmas.

About 400,000 seafarers remain stuck on their ships because of COVID-19 related travel bans.

Dear Friends at New Jerusalem,

This pandemic has been a major disruption for the people we serve and for *Seafarers International House*.

Now more than ever seafarers and immigrants rely on the generosity of donors like you.

Because of disruptions in travel, many of the 400,000 active seafarers have had to extend their contracts for over a year. In fact, just today, a very grateful seafarer checked into our temporarily relocated guesthouse after being marooned on the same vessel since March! Not allowed shore leave, *Seafarers International House* port chaplains meet them on the gangway delivering essentials that the crew members asked them to shop for. Our six chaplains also bring Christmas-at-Sea satchels (that volunteers are preparing these days) to the ships in the ports of New York and New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Haven, carrying warm clothing, holiday greetings, and assurances that they are not forgotten.

Never has our ship visiting been more crucial as we are often the only welfare workers that can connect them to the resources on land.

Other mariners are stuck on land looking for a new job. They are often without income for months as shipping has been disrupted by the pandemic and they have to quarantine 14 days before boarding a vessel. These seafarers rely on the lodging provided by *Seafarers International House*.

This housing is also needed by asylees, who are released from detention and face homelessness.

During this season, I think of the story of the Good Samaritan who disrupted his normal routine for the sake of a vulnerable neighbor. I think of how God disrupted the world by sending “Immanuel” to

rearrange the entire trajectory of how we view the way God works among the disrupted.

With best wishes for healthy Holidays and joyful Christmas. – *Pastor Marsh Luther Drege*

Because of so many generous hearts and with the help of a Thrivent grant, our congregation not only filled 20 satchels, but sent an additional



box of scarves, hats, and requested clothing. What you can't see is the big smile on Phyllis Fenstermacher's face.

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2021

January 23, 2021. Learning Ministries Day 2021 is Going On-Line! Plan to join us Saturday January 23, 2021 when our keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara Rossing, will speak on "Journeys Through Revelation."

Dr. Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, loves to teach and preach about the Bible, including the Bible's role in public life. She is the author of "The Rapture Exposed" and has been a guest on CBS 60 Minutes, The History Channel, National Geographic, Living the Questions, and numerous print and radio interviews.

In addition to Dr. Rossing's presentation, 17 workshops on a variety of topics will be offered. **Registration deadline is Friday, January 15.** The cost is \$25.00 and we have funds in the Faith Formation budget to cover this if you register through New Jerusalem. Please let Pastor Ruth know if you plan to attend. More details at the synod website, www.godslove.org.

LEARNING MINISTRY DAY 2021 – Some Session Descriptions

- A. COVID-19: Biblical and Theological Perspective
- C. Adult Bible Study Resources
- D. Unique Ways to “Teach Outside-of-the-Box”
- F. Putting the “Spirit” Back in Spiritual Gifts
- G. Creative Ways to Serve Our Community Through Thrivent Action Teams
- J. Ministering to Non-Tech Members as COVID-19 Continues

- K. Worship through Video – Bringing Faith to the People
- L. The Coronavirus Pandemic and Issues of Ethics and Justice
- N. Church Music in the COVID-19 World
- Q. “Death Do Us Part?” – Grief, Resurrection, and Our Relations
- S. Growing Young in a Changing World

AN UPDATE ON LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTS

Many hands go into making the quilts New Jerusalem sends to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for shipment around the world.

On August 4, a deadly explosion occurred in Beirut, Lebanon. Three containers of LWR quilts and kits were in the port awaiting customs clearance on that day. A fourth container had been separated at the port in the United States and was still on the water at that time. It was rerouted to the port in Tripoli.

In their December newsletter, LWR reported that they had learned that, against all odds, the three containers in Beirut were intact and, miraculously the seal of the containers was not broken. The placement in the port, inside a concrete storage building and surrounded by other shipping containers, protected the containers enough to even prevent chemical contamination. Not only that, but the fourth container had traveled over land to join the other three.

LWR writes, “We give thanks to God that the love of hundreds of Lutheran congregations contained in this shipment will be able to be shared with more than 24,000 of our neighbors in Beirut and across the country of Lebanon – many refugees from across the region, and now also those affected by the blast in the heart of Beirut. From the ashes of this crisis rises a beautiful ray of hope: your love, intact and powerful, in just eh right place, at just the right time.

To learn more, visit <https://lwr.org/Beirut-blast-donation>. Of special note is the story of one of the LWR workers in Beirut.

Note: *It’s not too late to contribute to the clean-up buckets and to the collection of food for the Kutztown University Food Pantry.*

“Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new.” — Unknown

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the ELCA is increasingly able to help families in need around the world. To date we know that: 1-fruit-tree seedling; 2-stock a backpack w/food; 2-mosquito nets; 1-water filter; 1-vaccination for a child; 1-school supplies for a child; 2-goats; 3-feed a refugee family; 2-roosters; 3-pigs; 3-honeybees; 2-shares of a cow; and 5-chicks have been purchased for a total of \$625.00 sent to the ELCA for Good Gifts.

It’s not too late to contribute to the clean-up buckets and to the collection of food for the Kutztown University Food Pantry. These collections continue through January 15.

CHRISTMAS FLOODING

Speaking of clean-up buckets, instead of snow, we got rain, and lots of it, for Christmas. While we can be thankful it was not all snow, some in our midst were flooded. Please let Pastor Ruth know of anyone who was affected by this and could use assistance. She can put them in touch with disaster response responders.

Thank you

Thank you to all the members of New Jerusalem for your many and varied expressions of love, care and support throughout the year and especially during this holy, happy season. – *Pastor Ruth*

To the congregation of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, I would like to thank you for your Christmas gifts, cards, and for satisfying my sweet tooth. Blessings to all of you for a happy and healthy New Year. Also, I would like to thank the ladies who have helped me with the newsletter and other mailings throughout the year. Your help is very much appreciated. – *Korinne Hotzman*

ANTS PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

A recent article in National Wildlife disclosed that black garden ants use social distancing to combat outbreaks of infectious disease. Workers in the ants’ colonies are divided into nurses, which care for the brood inside the nest, and foragers, which collect food outside and are most likely to pick up pathogens. Scientists found that when foragers are exposed to a disease-causing fungus, they spend even more time away from the nest, decreasing their contact with other workers. Nurses, meanwhile, move the brood deeper into the nest to protect the larvae. What is not known yet, is how the ants identify infection.

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

November 30, 2020

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 19,691.48
Thrivent	8,621.74
Checking	3,927.34
Youth	406.50
Fidelity	78,842.48
Cash Reserve	30,491.03
Mission Investment	11,552.87
Local Care	2,051.43
Total:	<u>\$ 155,584.87</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **November 30, 2019** \$ 186,924.44

October 2020 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,565.00	\$ 4,665.49	\$ (4,899.51)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2020
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 Parking Lot
Project
\$ 33,220.52 Funds Received to Offset Expenses

‘THE YEAR OF MY WELLBEING’

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”—Isaiah 40:31a

The COVID-19 pandemic has endured far longer than anyone imagined, and it has left us feeling stressed, weary, fearful, frustrated, angry, isolated, and dislocated. Many are simply depleted.

Even in normal times being a good steward of our personal health takes time, vigilance, commitment and discipline. The pandemic’s protracted disruption has made it especially hard to take care of ourselves at the very time we need it most.

Because it will take months for the Coronavirus vaccine to be widely available, and even longer for “normal” to return, it may be wise for God’s people to designate 2021 “The Year of My Wellbeing” and focus on our health.

Our spiritual, mental, emotional wellbeing are interconnected. Working on any one of them will improve the rest. Working on all of them will best help you maintain equilibrium as we live into this new future.

Here are some ideas to help you craft a wellbeing strategy:

- * Ask God for help.
- * Don’t go it alone! Work with friends for mutual support.
- * Tend to your spirit through Scripture study, devotionals, worship, and, most importantly, prayer.
- * Make quality time for loved ones.
- * Do something just for you.
- * Stuck? Talk to a counselor.
- * Exercise regularly.
- * Eat healthfully.
- * Practice stress-reduction techniques.

The pandemic will end, rest assured. When it does, we will all be greatly relieved. In the meantime, making 2021 “The Year of My Wellbeing” will help you stay strong.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com



Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus’ age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. “baby”; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. “child”; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. “youth”; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus’ age at the time of the wise men’s visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)



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



- 5 Daniel and Joanne Pauley (30 years)
- 17 Gary and Carrie Paige Lambert (7 years)

A WORD FOR THE YEAR

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God has prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

– Janne Firestone

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

WELCOME 2021!



PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Leon Moyer, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members: Myles Angstadt, Tara Basta, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, George DeLong, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace and Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, Gary and Vikie Seyfert.

Friends of the congregation: Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Joshua Buck, Anne Cunningham, Mark Derr, Lee Dice, Randy Dreibelbis, Jennifer Engle, Nicole F., Family and friends of Eric Fox, Harry Geidner, Jason Grof, Mamie Guinther, Denise Haage, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Edna Kramer, Cayden Kresge, Mary Kring, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Rodney Miller, Johnathan Naugle, Ruth Ramsey, Patricia Sigfried, Carol Spigelmeyer, Robert Taylor, Jerry Warmkessel, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Terry White, Althea Young, Alton Zentner, Barry, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and systemic racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world; areas enduring disaster; and migrants and refugees.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, David Jenkins, Sue Kearney, Anh La, Michelle Meck, Nancy Meck, Joanne Pauley, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Roger Schollenberger, Donna Schwoyer, the Spatz Family, and Leah Wiest.

A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

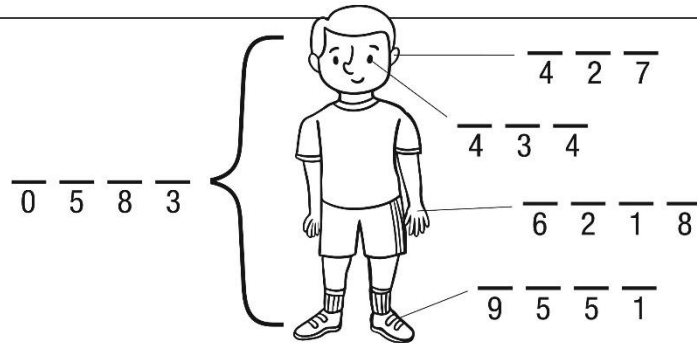
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the _____²⁰ should say, “Because I am not a _____¹⁷, I do not belong to the _____¹⁶,” ... And if the _____¹³ should say, “Because I am not an _____¹¹, I do not belong to the _____¹⁶,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the _____¹⁶. If the whole _____¹⁶ were an _____¹¹, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole _____¹⁶ were an _____¹³, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one _____¹⁶.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 16, ear = 11, hand = 13, foot = 17, foot = 20

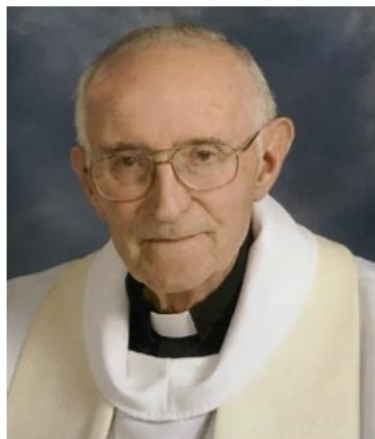
SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A Note from the Bishop Elect

Dear Friends in Christ - The Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany proclaim the good news: "Christ with us" and "Christ revealed to us!" I cling to these words. I long to hold tight, loved ones who must stay apart for a time: my parents, siblings, nephews and nieces. And I grieve for those we have lost, cry out for an end to this present suffering. But I also hear this great promise with new ears and insights: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2 NIV). Let us trust that the Light of the World is here already, and yet his coming is on the cusp, ready to start making all things new. In the coming days, I so look forward to sharing the vision that God is ready to reveal, for new life and renewed purpose across our Synod. More to come: keep watch! - Chris deForest, Bishop Elect

The Rev. Richard H. Stough Honored for Navy Chaplaincy



The Rev. Richard H. Stough was recently recognized for 30 years of service as a U.S. Navy Chaplain with a \$1,000 contribution to the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministry Fund for Leaders Scholarship Endowment Fund in honor of his service. The Endowment supports word and sacrament ministry candidates who will minister to military service members, and those who will serve as Veteran's Administration Chaplains or as Federal Prison Chaplains.

Because of its role in lifting up the Endowment Fund, this synod is designated an "ELCA Medallion Synod." Congregations can become "ELCA Medallion Congregations" by similarly supporting the Endowment Fund. Contact the synod office for more information.

Learning Ministries Day 2021 - Registration Deadline is Jan. 15

On Saturday, January 23, Learning Ministries Day will be held via Zoom for the first time ever; and you are invited! We will offer three one-hour workshop sessions with over 15 workshop options total. Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She will be speaking on "Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today."

A \$25 fee will be charged for each participant which will include the keynote, three workshops of their choice, and a goodie bag mailed directly to their home. Online registration will be open until the end of the day on January 15, 2021. Checks must be received to the Synod Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15. Workshop descriptions and the registration link can be found on the synod website at godslove.org.

Hope, Reading Receives NAACP Community Impact Award



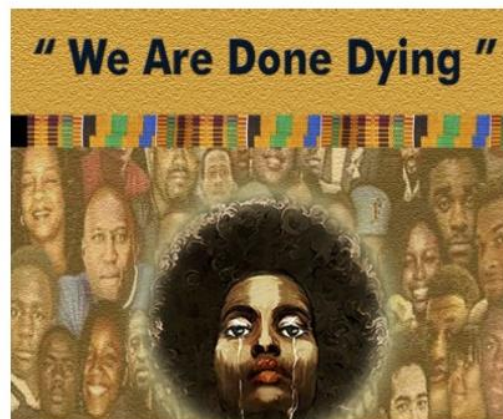
Food distribution staff at Hope

On Saturday, November 14, the Reading Chapter of the NAACP met for its 33rd annual Freedom Fund Gala - virtually, of course. Meals from "Grill Then Chill" were delivered to the homes of attendees. Following the meal, awards were presented to local organizations for their racial justice efforts. The Gala theme was, "We Are Done Dying."

Among the recipients of the 2020 Community Impact Award is a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod - Hope Lutheran Church in the Northwest section of the City of Reading. The award citation reads, in part, "We are thrilled to honor the church's dedication and commitment to making a difference with programs supporting the fullness of life for the residents living in our community."

Hope hosts the largest food pantry in the Helping Harvest Food Bank service area. Additionally, Hope's Table community outreach ministry provides a weekly meal for area residents; and Hope sponsors Café Esperanza, a One World Everybody Eat affiliate. The congregation has also offered summer and after-school programs for the multicultural children and youth who live in the neighborhood.

Pastor Mary Wolfe, who accepted the award on behalf of the congregation, commented, "We are so honored to be considered for this award. Hope has been enriched in many ways through the relationships we have been privileged to form with all of our neighbors."



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

JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					New Year's Day	
3 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	4	5	6	7 10:00am-Coloring Group	8	9
			Epiphany of Our Lord			
10 Baptism of Our Lord 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	11 11:00am-Bible Study on Zoom 7:00pm-Council Meeting	12	13 10:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg.	14	15	16
17 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	18 11:00am-Bible Study on Zoom Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observed	19	20 11:30am-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon (located TBD)	21	22	23 Learning Ministries Day
24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am-Worship on Zoom	25 11:00am-Bible Study on Zoom	26	27	28	29	30
31 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am-Worship on Zoom						