

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

E-MAIL: [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net)

WEBSITE: <https://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

*(Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)*



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.*



*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.  
– 1 John 4:7*

Beloved,

This how the author of the letters known as First, Second and Third John addresses the community he dearly loves. Not only does he love them, but he calls and instructs them on how to be a community of love, a *beloved community*.

Jesus taught about the kingdom of God, where all would live in peace and harmony, the way God planned it from the beginning. During our time, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other prophetic voices used the term of Beloved Community to describe the experience of God's kingdom in our lives today: moments of reconciliation and joy that break in and heal our many divisions.

Many of our members would describe New Jerusalem as a Beloved Community, a gathering of loving people who care for one another, for others and for the world God loves.

Communities change. We all know that. Communities change. Our Beloved Community is changing. Change does not have to be good or bad. Often it is just that, it's just change. We are often reluctant to see what has felt familiar and comfortable morph into a new form, but God's abiding promise is that God is doing a new thing.

Beginning in January our members will be invited to join in small groups to talk about the changes happening in our Beloved Community. These will be times to treasure what has been meaningful in the past and what is still meaningful in the present. These will be times to acknowledge that some things we treasured are no longer possible or meaningful. These will be times to identify what we hope we can carry into the future and to share visions of how this might happen.

In these months now between the Feast of the Father's Love (Christmas) and the Easter Celebration that death does not have the final word, that new life emerges from what appears to have been the end, let us listen for and pray for God's Spirit, the Spirit that breathed the church into being.

Times of change, times of transition, times of trying to discern the future can be challenging. This is true for our personal lives and for the life of our congregation. It is hard to be patient. It is frustrating to deal with the unknown. It can be tempting to lash out or to raise our hands as if to give up trying. I have every confidence, though, that this Beloved Community, our congregation, knows how and will love and encourage one another in these times. I have confidence, because love is of God, the God who has been with us in the past, is with us now, and promises to lead us into the future. I have confidence that the God who has been "our help in ages past" is "our hope for years to come."

Be at peace, knowing that you are loved. May God's Spirit fill you with courage, hope, and expectation as we begin this new year.

*Pastor Ruth*

*I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
your young men will see visions.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

*– Joel 2:28-29*

# NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on December 13th:

- Since a quorum was not met at the Congregational Meeting on November 7, 2021, the approval of the Proposed 2022 cannot be considered official. It will be voted on again at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2022.
- Justin Keller will be confirmed on Sunday, January 9, 2022.
- The Stewardship Committee will be getting a \$250 Thrivent grant to purchase blankets for the Afghan refugees.
- New back doors have been ordered for the back of the church building.
- Masks will be expected to be worn by all at worship. Singing is to be done softly, and only when wearing a mask.

## ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS

Now that we are going to be worshipping in our church building every Sunday, we need volunteers to sign up for Altar Guild. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex if you are able to help. Thank you!



## COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual 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 **Sunday, January 9th**.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 6th** immediately after our worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual reports from the committees. A quorum of **25 voting members** is needed for this meeting. Please spread the word to other members and encourage them to join us.

## FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

is **Sunday, January 16th**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

## WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

We are now worshipping in our building every Sunday.

Bulletins will continue to be mailed or emailed to those who request them so that those who cannot be present can join in worship at home. If you would like to receive one, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net). Bulletins are also available on our website.

If, for some unforeseen reason (e.g. inclement weather, a rise in the risk of infection, etc.) we are not able to worship in the building we may be able to temporarily revert to Zoom. In this case you will be able to connect with Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other devices. Links will now also be listed in the bulletins or you can call the church office if you need more information.

Those not able to join a Zoom service, can watch them later on our Facebook page or on our website under the "Zoom Worship Services" tab. Website: <https://newjerusalem.lutheran.weebly.com>.

## PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY IN CASE WE NEED TO USE ZOOM FOR WORSHIP

New Jerusalem Sunday Worship:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89499550266?pwd=Mnl3bmxCMkI3TDIHZGlrNXVaVVImZz09>

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**; Passcode: **27**

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,89499550266# US (Chicago)

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**

## WORSHIP NEWS

On January 9th we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord as well as Justin Keller's confirmation. We hope you will join us on this festive occasion when Justin will affirm the vows made for him on the day of his baptism.

## UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

Our current guidelines are listed below, but may change as the infection rate changes around us. The guiding principle is love of God, love for our neighbor, including the vulnerable among us, and respect for those who are doing their best to lead the congregation.

- 1) For the time being, seating will be every other pew.
- 2) Masks are expected to be worn as an act of love and respect for others. Singing is to be done softly, and only when wearing a mask.
- 3) Communion will be held the first Sunday of the month in your pew.

The Worship and Music Committee, the council and our Task Force will continue to monitor the situation and will make modifications as they deem it wise.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group continues to study Paul's letter to the Romans. This month we will meet on **Monday, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 11:00 a.m.** in the church building. Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

## COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, January 6th, at 10:00 a.m.** Pages and supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.

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. If you are interested, please let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know.

**UNDECORATING AT CHURCH** will take place on **Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.** Help is needed to take down the Christmas decorations. Thank you!

## CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

End-of-year contribution statements for 2021 should be arriving in your mailbox by the end of the month. Please check them over and notify the church office if there are any discrepancies. Thank you!

## WITH SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Joyce F. Rothermel who passed away on Saturday, November 20, 2021. A funeral service was held at Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown, on Tuesday, November 30th.

## JANUARY WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost of sponsoring Altar Flowers is now **\$40.00** per week. 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! We are mailing bulletins to many members. The cost for that is about \$45.00 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

### Altar Flower sponsors for January:

January 2 – Dale Schwoyer  
January 9 – *sponsor needed*  
January 16 – *sponsor needed*  
January 23 – *sponsor needed*  
January 30 – *sponsor needed*

### Bulletin Sponsors for January:

January 2 – Dale Schwoyer  
January 9 – Rodney and Diane Keller  
January 16 – *sponsor needed*  
January 23 – *sponsor needed*  
January 30 – Phyllis Fenstermacher

### Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for January:

Gladys Kline

## SHARING OUR PRAYERS

At a recent Bible Study meeting the participants asked that members and friends of the congregation share prayers and hymns that are meaningful to them and that we publish them in upcoming newsletters. In our confirmation studies it was noted that "hand-me-down" prayers, prayers that come down through the ages or from others, can be very meaningful and help us shape our own conversations with God. We also looked at prayers Martin Luther suggested for use throughout the day which are found at the end of his Small Catechism, a copy of which is included in the back of our hymnal.

Please mail, call, or email prayers or hymns that are meaningful to you to our office. Be sure to note the source so we can give proper credit to the author.

## **LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY – Saturday, January 22, 2022, 8:30 to 3:00**

Celebrate the gift of learning with others from our synod as we listen to the keynote address, “Living Well from the Waters of Baptism,” and share in other workshops. Location: Atonement Lutheran Church, 5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing,

The keynote address will reflect on be given by Dr. Williams, will focus on how spiritual well-being is centered in Holy Baptism and influences our well-being in all other dimensions. Dr. Williams is a priest of the Episcopal Church who has taught Clinical Counseling at Moravian Theological Seminary.

Workshops include: Aromatherapy; Relax and Play with Watercolor Paints; Labyrinth as Spiritual Tool; Social Justice and Environmental Ethics; Nature Deprivation; Wholesome Attitudes Toward Other Religions; Speaking about God: Beyond Inclusive Language; Stay Curious, Stay Learning; Budgeting for What Matters Most; Let’s Move It: Interplay; Stamina for Your Soul: Cultivating Spiritual Practices that Foster Good Health; Come to the Table; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania; Let’s Move It: Exercise; Bible and Book Study: Baptismal Wellsprings and Watersheds; Pilgrimage as a Spiritual Practice for Transformation; Sabbath Rest.

Registration deadline is Friday, January 14. The cost is \$37.00 for entire workshop or \$10.00 for only keynote speaker on Zoom. Please let Pastor Ruth know if you plan to attend. More details at the synod website, [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org). Atonement Lutheran Church, 5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing,

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## *Stewardship Updates*

### **A THANK YOU FROM SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE**

What is the most wondrous gift? Health? Family? Love? The nice thing is that God’s gifts aren’t in competition with each other. The hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem” says “A Wondrous Gift is Given” – and indeed Christians know that gift to be God’s love revealed in Jesus – but it doesn’t end there!

God gifts us with all good things, like being able to transport scores of seafarers to vaccination sites or to visit them while confined to their vessels and

to provide housing to vulnerable asylees, - all because you kept us afloat financially through the pandemic.

Thank you for your wonderful gifts given this past year and wishing you continued wonderful gifts this holiday season and into 2022. Peace,  
*Pastor Marsh Luther Drege – Executive Director*

### **UPDATE ON SHIPMENT TO SEAFARERS**

Just before Thanksgiving we packed and shipped 19 full satchels and had 13 snacks and 18 pairs of socks and 31 hats and 12 cowls to add to the box. Grand total: 31 cowls and 58 hats. Thank you, busy fingers!



### **UPDATE ON RESETTLING AFGHAN AND OTHER REFUGEES**

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) is working with the Allentown office of Bethany Christian Services Ministries to resettle Afghan and other refugees in our area. Basic household items are needed by these brothers and sisters, most of whom have come with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Since June they have resettled 30 family units in our area with 15 more expected by February 15<sup>th</sup>. On average one family arrives every 2 weeks. This is a huge effort. Volunteers are needed to manage donations, help set up new homes, move furniture, and transport and accompany people to medical and other appointments.

**UPDATE ON COLLECTION OF ITEMS FOR  
AFGHAN REFUGEES** – please bring donations to our church.

1. Twin blankets or comforters a– new
2. Twin sheet sets
3. Full blankets or comforters – new
4. Full/Queen sheet sets
5. Glass cleaner – new
6. Toilet bowl cleaner – new
7. Tub and shower cleaner – new
8. Wet mops – that you can wring out to use on floors that are not carpeted
9. Reusable shopping bags
10. Erasable markers
11. Hot pads
12. Oven mitts
13. Children’s school scissors
14. Household scissors
15. Pots and pans – new or gently used



## BLANKETS FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

Using a grant from Thrivent, 12 comforters and one blanket were purchased by our congregation and delivered to the collection center at Grace Episcopal Church in Allentown on December 20th.

*Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

– Philippians 2:4

## SUPPLIES FOR KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The Lutheran Center at Kutztown University distributes food, personal care items, and gently used clothing to members of the KU community through their pantry. Please bring your donations after Christmas. We will get them to the university in time for the students' return after the holidays. We have received a \$250 Thrivent Grant to supplement donations of our members.

Next month: watch for a report on the "fruits" on our Good Gifts Tree.



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



17 Gary and Carrie Paige Lambert (8 years)

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members:** Sara Jane Beshore, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace Rothermel, Family and friends of Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, and Elaine Seip.

**Friends of the congregation:** John Arndt, Michael Basta, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mitch Burkhart, Mark Derr, Katie Didyoung, Family and friends of Thomas Dietrich, Randy Dreibelbis, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Dennis Grof, Jason Grof, Betty Gruber, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Debra Kenny, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Harry Naugle, Johnathan Naugle, Ruth Ramsey, Lexi Recke, Randy Schlegel, Tierney Schmeer, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Sptaz, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, Gabby, Lynn, Meaghan, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

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

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Nancy Bennecoff, Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.

## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

November 30, 2021

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 21,943.82
Thrivent	11,193.04
Checking	6,734.26
Youth	406.58
Fidelity	60,577.88
Cash Reserve	24,416.24
Mission Investment Fund	11,608.79
Local Care	<u>2,160.31</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 139,040.92</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **November 30, 2020**      \$ 155,584.87

### November 2021 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income		
Income	Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,651.25	\$ 7,115.00	(\$ 2,536.25)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2021  
Budget Passed by Congregation  
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

### BIBLICAL RESOLUTIONS

- Hold firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- Pray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- Petition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- Notice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
- Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Yearn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
- Exercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- Aim for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- Redeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Reprinted from The Newsletter Newsletter



## 2022: YOUR YEAR FOR GENEROSITY

*“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity!” - 2 Corinthians 9:11*

As you make resolutions and set goals for the New Year, be sure to include this one: “I will be more generous in 2022.” It will bless you – and your community and neighbor!

The Bible makes clear that generosity leads to a more abundant life. Generous people experience one of those paradoxes of the Kingdom of God, where the last are first, the greatest is servant to all, and whoever loses her life for Christ will gain it. The paradox? Generous people get back far more they give.

First, a clarification: The paradox is NOT a financial strategy to maximize return on investment. That would be missing the point. Besides, there are more important things to give than money, such as time, service, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, and joy. And what we get back may not be quantifiable. How do you measure wellbeing and happiness?

Generosity’s real “payback” is what and who we become when we cultivate a habit of giving. Giving transforms us into generous-hearted people, and generous-hearted people tend to experience a real abundance of joy, peace, love, and security.

The old saying is most certainly true: The open palm holds more than the closed fist.

For 2022, set a goal to be more generous. Start by increasing your charitable giving above last year’s offering, but also aim to give away your time, to serve your neighbor, to be lavish in compassion, extravagant in love.

Pray that God will guide you and help you experience the paradox: Givers get back more than they give away.

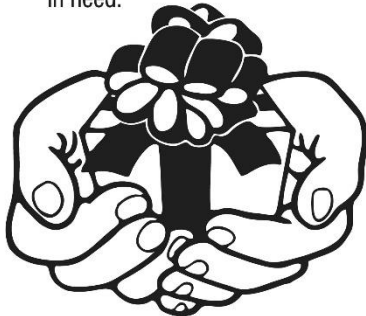


Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com)

## Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



### What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

### What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



## A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

*Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.*

Do not seek **re**\_\_\_\_\_ or bear a grudge against anyone among your \_\_\_\_\_ople, but **love** your **neig**\_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do **right**; seek jus\_\_\_\_\_. Defend the \_\_\_\_\_pressed. Take up the cause of the \_\_\_\_\_less; plead the \_\_\_\_\_e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

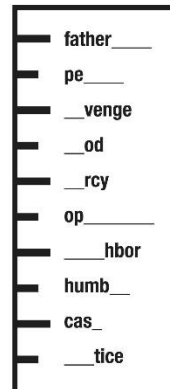
He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go\_\_\_\_. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me\_\_\_\_ and to walk \_\_\_\_\_ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in \_\_\_\_\_ything, do to ot \_\_\_\_\_ what you would \_\_\_\_\_ve them d \_\_\_\_\_ to you, for this s \_\_\_\_\_ms up the \_\_\_\_\_w and the Proph \_\_\_\_\_s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV



Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets





# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 30

## *Covid-19 Update & Guidelines*

**The Latest Situation:** The Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate fear, concern, confusion and division across the country and within our own Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The most recent developments – some troubling, some hopeful – include:

- The rise of new variants, especially “omicron”;
- The ongoing and in many cases, increasing numbers of new cases;
- The continued reluctance and refusal of some to get vaccinated, or to wear masks;
- On the good side: the increased opportunities for testing, for boosters, and for vaccines for all ages.

Here in our Synod, I now encourage us to use another trustworthy source of information to help guide our decisions concerning the pandemic: the “Covid Act Now Coalition.” This non-profit, web-based resource brings together non-partisan experts in medicine, law, and public policy, to provide objective data and analysis. Their website is being consulted as a reliable source by synods and congregations across the ELCA. From their site, we can see clearly that things are still very threatening here in NE Penn: all 14 of our counties have threat levels of “VERY HIGH” or “SEVERE” – Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill all are in that worst category. Additionally, the vaccination rate is at or below 60% for 7 of those 14 counties. Most of these numbers are worse than the data for many of our neighboring synods, including the Southeastern Penn Synod, whose leaders have nonetheless chosen to put in place stricter guidelines than we have. I believe we can become safer and return to “normal” sooner if we follow their lead.

### **Dr. Luther Shows The Way:**

Almost exactly 500 years ago – in November 1520 – Martin Luther published one of his most ground-breaking treatises: “On the Freedom of a Christian.” He begins the document with this famous declaration: “A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. And a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”

He goes on to describe how God, through Christ’s sacrificial love for us on the cross, has granted us the grace and the freedom to make our own decisions; but this freedom does not release us to disregard the truth, or our call to care and concern for our neighbor. Luther writes: “Therefore [Christians] should be guided in all [their] works by this thought and contemplate this one thing alone, that [they] may serve and benefit others in all that [they do], considering nothing except the need and the advantage of [the] neighbor.”

So “what does this mean?” The inconvenience of mask wearing; and even the threat of temporary cold-and-flu reactions to vaccinations – these are simply the sacrifices we are called to make, as “the dutiful servants of all, subject to everyone.” It is within this traditionally and theologically Lutheran framing that we maintain our vigilance; and update our guidelines here.



**Covid-19 Continued...**

**Latest Synod Recommendations:**

As we prepare for the larger crowds of Christmas Eve – and with Lent, Holy Week and Easter not far away – I am recommending the starting, the continuation, or the resumption, of any and all common-sense and good-neighbor precautions, including:

- Proof of vaccination or a negative test for all indoor events
  - Indoor masking
- Good air circulation, including open windows where feasible
- Social distancing, frequent washing and other effective protocols

Furthermore – at their January 15 meeting, I am encouraging our Synod Council to discuss and decide upon further appropriate actions, which may include mandates that all Synod-sponsored indoor events require masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of a negative test. As the duly elected governing body of this Synod, your Synod Council has the right and responsibility to make these decisions for Synod gatherings. When it comes to our individual worshipping communities, our authority is more limited; Synod Council (and myself) can only make clear and strong recommendations – based on the best science, on good conscience and on our common love for our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. In other words, all congregations have the “freedom of a Christian” to decide for themselves how they will choose to act – or refuse to act. I invite us all to follow our baptismal call and Lutheran heritage, to follow God’s will and God’s love for all.

In God’s Love,  
Bishop Christopher deForest

MISSION  
SUPPORT  
2022



**Send in your mission support commitments for 2022. You can find the form on the synod website, under the resources tab.**

**boundless**  
god beyond measure

JULY 24-28, 2022  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
REGISTER NOW AT [ELCA.ORG](http://ELCA.ORG)

Save the date SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022

June 10-11  
Reading

# JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						 New Year's Day
2 2nd Sunday of Christmas / Epiphany of Our Lord 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion	3 9:00am-Worship & Music Committee Meeting 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	4	5 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	6 10:00am-Coloring Group  Epiphany of Our Lord	7 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8
9 Baptism of Our Lord 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion ▪ Justin Keller Confirmation ▪ Committee Annual Reports due	10 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting	11	12 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	13	14 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	15
16 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am-Worship  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18	19 12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner  12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	20	21 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	22 8:30am-3:00pm- Learning Ministries Day, Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing
23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am-Worship ▪ Supply Pastor: Laura Stoneback	24 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	25	26 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	27	28 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29
30 4th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am-Worship	31 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.					