

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

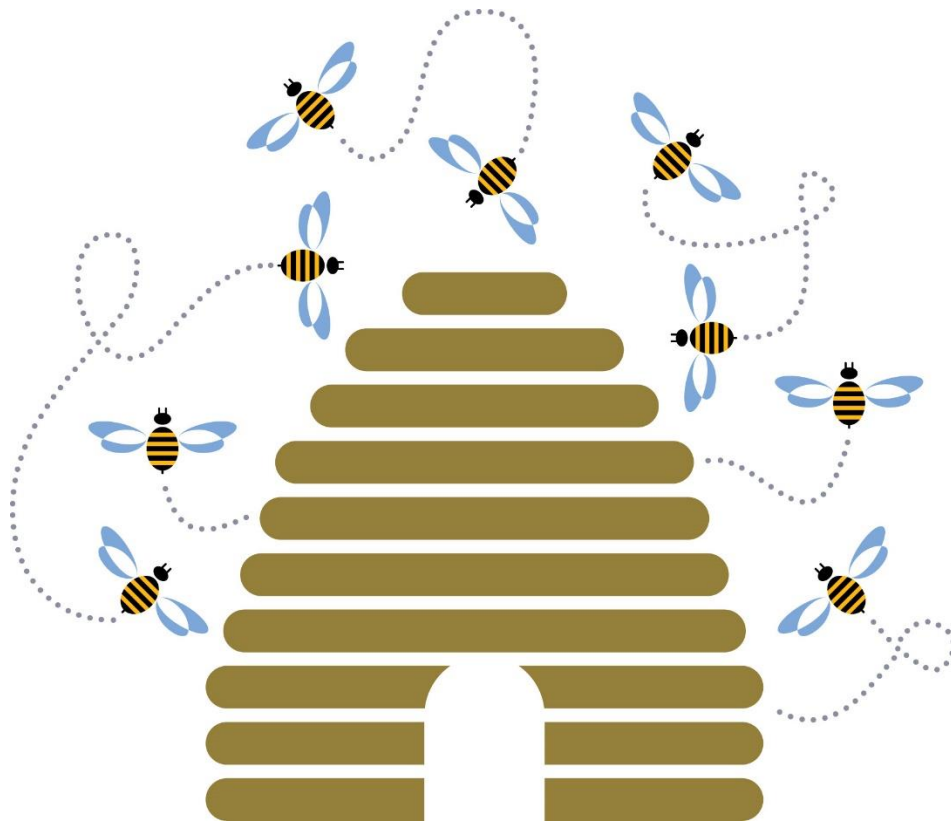
Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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Website: <https://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.



For lo, the winter is past. . . .
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.

- Song of Solomon 2:11-12, *New King James Version*

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,

It's summertime and the bees are buzzing. Even while we avoid annoying them, we acknowledge how we need each one to pollinate our plants, flowers as well as food.

As ten members met this past Saturday to discuss how to utilize our facilities in this time of pandemic, we discussed our mission and what people around us and our members are longing for. "Normal" was the first answer. "No masks, restaurants open, business thriving, jobs, etc. "Seeing each other" second. This includes getting together, passing the peace, fellowship, hugs, and chocolate cake after worship. "Communion" was the third. We have not celebrated together since the beginning of Lent and we are hungry for this precious gift. "Getting back into the building" highlights a desire to not just be in familiar place, but to be in *sacred* space, surrounded by symbols of God's love and memories of saints who have met in this place. "Learning together" was another: resuming Bible Study, Faith Formation with Youth, and Confirmation Class.

Shortly afterwards, Cheryl Wiltout emailed saying she thought of another, a longing to "feel needed."

Longing to feel needed. Feeling needed, feeling that one has something to contribute, is a fundamental part of health, of feeling like one belongs. This longing surfaces whenever there are major life changes. When one moves or loses a job, when children leave home, one retires, has a major change in health and ability, or reaches a certain age, we wonder whether we are still needed. We often feel displaced. Even the young sometimes wonder whether they are needed, which is one reason we train them early and expect them to contribute to the family and community. I can only imagine how much displaced people, refugees, and migrants long to feel wanted and needed.

Much has been noted lately about "unseen" essential workers. With the first wave of infection we realized how much we depend on those who clean, deliver mail, and work in our factories and grocery stores. It is the same in the church, even our congregation. Essential work is done by people who are often "unseen" or unrecognized. Members may not even be aware of the importance of their "ministry in daily life." Much of what members did that helped them feel needed is not available at this time, like handing out bulletins, baking for fellowship, setting up for communion, counting money, lighting the candles, etc. However, being displaced from our building and "business as usual" at New Jerusalem is an opportunity to rethink what God needs and wants us to do. It may even help us to better focus our mission—our mission as individuals and as a congregation—to relearn that the majority of God's essential work needs to be done outside our building.

Over the last several weeks we have heard Jesus send out disciples, command them to go. "Go into the nearby cities and villages. Go to the lost sheep. Go, even, into all the world. Go and declare in word and deed that God's way of life is breaking into the world, into the lives of those you meet." The church gathers for worship to help members report on how things are going, to re-focus, share their hurts and struggles, and be refreshed with word and sacrament *in order to go back out into the world*. That is the symbolism of carrying the flame out at the end of a service.

Jesus sent not just the twelve, but others who followed him, and Jesus sends us out to declare God's love in word and deed. Even offering a cup of cold water to someone who is thirsty, is an act of serving Jesus, an act that is needed.

For our congregation to be faithful to God's calling, each one of us is needed to look around, to open our ears, hearts, and minds to notice where and how each of us and we as a community are called to declare God's love in word and deed. Like worker bees, we are to "pollinate" as we go, and, when we return to the "hive," to share not only pollen, but news of the area. Each one of us has unique areas and opportunities for ministry. How about taking this time to identify your mission statement, what God is calling you to do. Then, as we are able to gather, let us share the news, and regroup for service. – *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 June 8th:

- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, provided council with an update on the finances of the church. Council voted to have the Finance Committee proceed with the 2021 budget preparation using the same information that was gathered for the 2020 budget.
- The hymnals, Bibles, and pew cushions have been removed from the sanctuary to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Memorial funds will be used to pay the bill of \$2,000.00 that was received from King at Your Service to remove the existing tree that fell.
- A Task Force is being created to help prepare for the necessary steps to re-opening our church building. A meeting with several members of New Jerusalem took place on Saturday, June 20. See report below.

BIBLE STUDY has resumed via Zoom. We are still working to resume Confirmation and Faith Formation for Youth.

THREADS FOR OTHERS – Stay tuned. If you need material to make masks or yarn for cowls and hats for seafarers, let Pastor Ruth know. Supplies are available at church.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS – Stay tuned.

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the August 2020 newsletter is **Sunday, July 19**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

FINANCES

The work of our congregation continues even as we discover new opportunities for worship and ministry. Thank you to those who continue to regularly send in their offerings. During the past 2 months weekly offerings have averaged about \$200 (1/6) below last year, which is really encouraging considering that we are not able to gather at this time. That said, expenses for our ministry continue to remain about the same, our

average weekly offerings do not meet our budget, and some ventures we are using and exploring for worship, Bible study and faith formation could bring additional costs.

Please note: Contributions are being deposited every other week, so you might notice that your check is not clearing as quickly as before.

Also, please remember our Local Care Fund handled confidentially by Pastor. Contributions to this can be made through your envelopes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

You should have received your offering envelopes for July-December 2020 in the mail. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

You might have noticed that the calendar for July is not included in the newsletter this month. Since all activities/events have been tentatively placed on hold, council has decided not to include the calendar at this time.

WORSHIP VIA ZOOM CONTINUES

Until further notice we are continuing worship via Zoom each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Information on how to connect via internet, phone, and other methods is available. While we know this isn't a perfect way to worship and that not everyone is able to join in this way, as of June 21, 58 individuals have joined in during the 7 services starting with Easter, and we have had an average attendance of 29.

If you haven't been able to join us for our Zoom worship services on Sunday mornings, you can watch the services on our Facebook page or on our website <https://newjerusalem.lutheran.weebly.com> under the "Worship Resources" tab.

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>.

OUTDOOR COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULED

One of the decisions which came out the Task Force working on our ministry in the face of COVID-19 is to offer a short communion service with people gathering in their cars on our parking lot. The first service will be held **June 27 at 7 p.m.** Instructions are included in this mailing. As we continue to learn and to adapt to changing circumstances, other services will be offered.

JULY WORSHIP SPONSORS

Since we have been worshiping via Zoom each Sunday, bulletins are being mailed out to members who do not have access to email and/or internet. The cost to mail out the bulletins to members is approximately \$45.00 each week.

Bulletin Sponsors for July:

July 5 – Cheryl Wiltrout

July 12 – Elaine Seip

July 19 – Sue Schlenker

July 26 – (no sponsor)

Sanctuary Candle for July:

Dale Schwoyer

The cost to sponsor Bulletins is \$7.00 and the Sanctuary Candle is \$15.00.

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 monitoring whether she is allowed to enter hospitals, but is not entering nursing facilities. Please continue to let her know when someone enters the hospital or when anyone is experiencing a change in health or situation.

COVID-19 TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

On June 20, ten members of our congregation met to discern recommendations to make to council in the face of the current COVID-19 situation. These recommendations were subsequently approved.

Task Force members include: Cheryl Wiltrout, Ty and Cindy Rissmiller, Gladys Kline, Diane Keller, Sara Jane Beshore, Dan and Kathy Bailey, Faye Dey, Korinne Hotzman, and Pastor Ruth.

The focus of the group is on planning for ministry in the light of the pandemic. It recognizes that over time a variety of scenarios will need to be developed, since the level of community infection

is likely to vary. As the Task Force began its discussions, members recognized that their responsibilities include clarifying and affirming the focus of our ministry, responding to needs and longings of parishioners and others, maintaining safety, and planning for how we and others will use and care for buildings and property.

As members looked at the current situation, they recognized that:

- planning in making our best “guess” in the light of what we know;
- these are uncertain times;
- many are anxious;
- we need to be flexible and willing to learn from what seems to be effective as well as what does not;
- we will need to continue to plan and adapt since things will change; and,
- God gives us what we need and will continue to do so.

Members noted that our mission as a congregation is to carry God’s message, God’s word of hope, faith, and love to others, and to care for our people and community. They then discussed what they think people, including our members, are longing for and that as we plan, we need to keep safety in the front of our minds, while acknowledging that no one model will please or address the longings of every person.

The following guidelines were recommended to council:

1. As of July 1 – small groups of congregation members can use the large basement room, but not the classrooms.
2. Those present must wear masks and social distance.
3. Records will be kept of who was present and which areas of the building were used.
4. Groups and individuals who meet must clean up and sanitize the areas they have been in. Supplies will be provided.
5. Guidelines for the scouts were drawn up and will be communicated to them. At present, no other outside group is using the building since AA group is too large to social distance in our facility.

Members started to develop guidelines for when we do return to worship in our building. For the present, however, we will continue to worship via

Zoom and offer a brief service of Holy Communion at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, with people assembling in their cars and able to hear the service transmitted via an FM station. This type of service can be repeated or adapted in the near future, even while we continue to consider other possibilities.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY CHANGE

Because of concerns for the safety and well-being of the delegates, the Assembly will not be held at the Kalahari Resort in October as previously announced. The Assembly Planning Team is considering several options, including the possibility of an online Assembly. A recommendation will be made by the Synod Council at their meeting on July 14, and their decision will be announced to the Synod.

INFORMATION GATHERING SESSIONS – CANCELLED

The Information Gathering Team is canceling the two Survey Results and Preliminary Question Development sessions planned for Zoom July 11 and 18, principally owing to Synod Leadership considering options for 2020 Synod Assembly and Bishop Elections at their July 14 Synod Council meeting. However, to ensure the Information Gathering Team still provides timely feedback to those who completed surveys and anyone with interest, a YouTube recording reviewing Survey Results and Analysis will be made available for anyone in the Synod to play on-demand. That video will be provided via normal Synod communication channels by the time of the previously scheduled first Zoom meeting, July 11.

THANK YOU TO CHRIST HAMILTON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Earlier this month, Pastor Ruth received this love-filled letter from a sister congregation located near Stroudsburg:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We thank you for your ministry, especially during this challenging time. We have had to shepherd those we are called to minister to facing unique challenges. Many pastors we spoke with have felt as though they have been working more and more hours just to keep up.

Please know that your friends at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran have been thinking about and

praying for you! Please accept this small gift in appropriate liturgical green as you continue your good work with us together in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Our appointed Gospel for June 14th reminds us that “when [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

May you continue to labor for our Good Shepherd, may you continually be renewed through the power of the Holy Spirit, and may you be fed by the love of Christ each and every day!

*In Christ’s name,
Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church.*

Enclosed was a handmade green face mask. Apparently, one was sent to the pastor of every congregation in our synod.

EXPANDING OUR CIRCLE OF CARE

Below are several articles about how the current pandemic is affecting brothers and sisters we may not think about and how some Lutheran ministries are responding.

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (LIRS)

Members of New Jerusalem had the privilege of meeting the Johnson-Agiri family in March, one of many families assisted by LIRS. Here is another example of those we serve through this organization.

Luciana was on the way to achieving the American dream. As a widow and mother who took her children and fled horrific violence last summer, life in the United States offered her a fresh start. She was working full-time in a factory, taking English classes, and helping her children settle into their new lives.

But when COVID-19 hit, Luciana’s hours at the factory were drastically cut. She scrambled to find another job, this time in food service, but soon she was laid off. She filed for unemployment, but massive backlogs meant she’d have to wait for weeks, if not months.

And sadly, as a new American, she's ineligible to receive a stimulus check. She can't apply for a green card until she's been in the United States for one year.

Luciana's story is only one of hundreds that [LIRS] has heard since the pandemic began. Single mothers laid off from restaurant or hospitality jobs and struggling to make ends meet. Women and children fleeing from domestic violence have no where to go. Families with members suffering from illnesses are no longer able to pay for care.

In response to this urgent crisis, LIRS has established our Neighbors in Need Fund—an emergency cash assistance fund to help refugees and immigrants whose lives have been upended by the pandemic. . .

Hard-working immigrants who pay taxes, work full-time, attend school, and contribute to their communities are ineligible for the very same stimulus funding that keeps their neighbors afloat. Some, like Luciana, have not been in the U.S. long enough to qualify. Others are without a pathway to citizenship, or—in a shockingly unfair development—simply married to someone who is undocumented.

Throughout the pandemic, immigrants have played a vital role as part of the backbone of this country. They're our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, our agricultural workforce, our grocery store attendants, and sanitation employees.

They get our praise, but they need our help.

*Krish O'Marah Vignarahah,
President and CEO of LIRS*

To learn more about the Neighbors in Need program and how you can help, visit www.lirs.org.

SEAFARERS – AMONG THE “INVISIBLE ESSENTIAL WORKERS”

Two messages from Pastor Marsh Drege of Seafarer's International:

June 17 – Seafarers, who should be [listed among the] "invisible essential workers," need our help more than ever. Maritime transport depends on the 2 million seafarers who operate the world's merchant ships, which carry about 90% of global

trade by volume, including most of the world's food, energy, and medical supplies.

Due to COVID-related travel restrictions, hundreds of thousands of seafarers have been stuck at sea. Unable to disembark, the maximum sea time stipulated in international conventions is being ignored, with some seafarers marooned at sea for 15 months.

Because of the lack of crew rotation, many seafarers are exhausted and worried about their loved ones who they can't contact while at sea. When in port, customs agents don't allow seafarers to leave their ships, which for many have become "floating prisons."

Other seafarers are literally stranded in NYC with no permanent home to go to and no assignment because of the disruptions. The costs of hotels will bankrupt many seafarers who are forced to wait ashore for their next shipping job.

Seafarers International House addresses the needs of both sets of seafarers, the ones marooned at sea and the ones stranded. Our port chaplains are able to visit ships in ports along the Eastern Seaboard and bring them magazines, books, and internet connectivity that breaks the painful separation from their families. Port chaplains also bring provisions that the seafarers ask them to pick up.

*Seafarers stranded in Manhattan have a subsidized place to stay at the *Seafarers International House relocated*— now at a mid-town hotel. Our staff assists them if they need counsel or social work assistance.*

In addition, a hot-line “chat with a chaplain” has also been established for seafarers regardless of where they are in the world.

Your support will provide great relief to the invisible essential workers that travel the world seas many months on end, to provide us the essential goods we often take for granted.

Be well. Be safe.

“Your worth consists in what you are and not in what you have. What you are will show in what you do.”

—Thomas Davidson

CHRISTMAS AT-SEA IN JULY

Stay Home and Knit

Early June – If you are one of the hundreds of Christmas-at-Sea participants, please stay home and keep knitting. **While we are not able to accept any items mailed to us at this time, we encourage you to knit or crochet hats and scarfs for seafarers.**

You may have heard that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue our mission of hospitality by temporarily making our guesthouse available to people in our community who are recuperating from the virus. To that end, we have partnered with another not-for-profit agency that provides respite care for displaced hospital patients. While they are there, we do not have access to our facility and cannot receive mail.

At the same time, we continue to provide housing to seafarers and asylees, but in another location here in Manhattan. Some detention centers are releasing asylum seekers, who are then at risk of facing homelessness. With travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine, many seafarers are stranded not being able to fly to foreign ports to join their ships. Our “re-located SIH guesthouse” at a mid-town hotel insures rooms for both our asylees and seafarers during this time.

We will send you another letter [to update you]... as we continue our tradition of providing every mariner regardless of their faith or nationality with their Christmas-at-Sea satchels containing warm clothing, sweets, and Holiday greetings from YOU.

Thank you for continuing to knit this summer. And please consider making a donation to support our work with immigrants and seafarers. Happy Summer! – *Your Seafarers International House Team*

TELL US YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS

Please tell us your favorite hymns. The Worship and Music Committee will be working to include these in the services we plan. Please email or call and leave a message for the church or contact Faye, Sara Jane, Elaine or Ted.



WE THE PEOPLE: STEWARD OUR DEMOCRACY

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Two sentences from the Declaration of Independence express the true hierarchy that orders our lives. At the top is God, our creator. Human beings are next, and we create government to secure our rights. So, the hierarchy is: God, people, government.

This marks a dramatic innovation in Western thought. For centuries monarchs had been understood to rule “by divine right,” so the accepted hierarchy was: God, monarchy (government), people.

We celebrate the Declaration’s signing day, July 4, 1776, with fireworks, family cookouts and parades. This year’s Fourth of July comes in the wake of COVID-19 and protests over the death George Floyd—events that have brought to light many deep-seated problems.

Amid economic instability, rising inequality in wealth and healthcare, disparities in criminal justice and other issues, many are asking, “Who does the government *really* serve?” The Declaration reminds us that we’re in charge, and we have the power to make changes to direct the path our government is on.

It would be wise for God’s people to mark the Fourth of July, 2020, with deep reflection and renewed commitment to working to ensure a government that reflects our values and serves all of God’s people.

Why is this a stewardship issue? Christian stewardship is the discipline of taking care of and using wisely all that God has given us – whether it be money, health, relationships, or even governments. God has entrusted us with a vibrant democracy. It’s up to us to take care of it.

—Rob Blezard

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IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

**PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE
for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care**

Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Leon Moyer, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT

Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Erma Gajewski, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Penny Keller, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Edna Miler, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Joanne Pauley, Joyce Rothermel, Dale Schwoyer, Gary and Vikie Seyfert, and Dawn Wartzluft.

Friends of the congregation: Gayle Arndt, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Carson Bosma, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Family and friends of Sandy Burkhart, Mark Derr, Lee Dice, Randy Dreibelbis, Jennifer Engle, Eric Fox, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Edna Kramer, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Doris Meadway, Ruth Ramsey, Pastor Tami Reichley, Patricia Sigfried, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, and Pat.

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, Lorelai Gold, David Jenkins, Sue Kearney, Anh La, Michelle Meck, Nancy Meck, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Bronwyn Schielke, Roger Schollenberger, Donna Schwoyer, The Spatz Family, Jack Stoudt, and Leah Wiest.



- 1 Randy Bennecoff
- 1 Kathy Bailey
- 7 Carson Seip
- 8 Logan Seip
- 12 Kenneth Keck
- 14 Phillip Litschke
- 18 Richard Bausher
- 18 Daniel Bailey
- 22 Rodney Keller
- 23 Dale Schwoyer
- 26 Brian Hess
- 29 Madison Musser

Oops! I missed Annabell Keller's birthday on April 21, and Abigail Keller's birthday on June 2. I apologize for these omissions.



- 15 Daniel and Sheila Gehman (14 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.



BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

In the light of concerns about increased food needs in response to COVID-19 and possible challenges of delivering items to the food bank – *please consider a generous monetary donation.* We will keep you posted with info from the food pantry. You can make out a check to “Brandywine Food Pantry,” and mail it to Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 122 W. Franklin St., Tipton, PA, 19562.

Donated Items in much need right now: coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juices, breakfast cereal, pancake syrup and mix, mayonnaise, ketchup, soup of all kinds, spaghetti sauce, beef stew, Chicken-ala-King, canned meat (such as tuna, chicken breast or Spam), Manwich or sloppy joe mix, chili, Chef Boyardee canned items (such as beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), pasta or rice sides, snacks of all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), shampoo, bar soap, body wash, and laundry detergent.

Gluten-free and sugar-free food is also greatly appreciated.

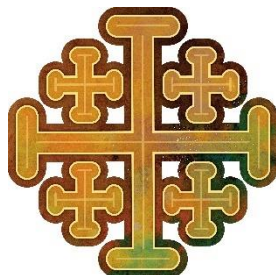
Please check dates on donated food products.

During this time, it is best to take physical donations to St. Peter’s during pantry hours or call to arrange a convenient time at 610.682.7633. If you cannot deliver things to St. Peter’s, please call our church office to arrange a time to deliver them to New Jerusalem.



JERUSALEM CROSS

This complex cross, also called the Crusader’s Cross or Fivefold Cross, has several interpretations. The main cross is composed of four tau (T) crosses representing the Old Testament law. The four small Greek crosses symbolize the fulfillment of the law in the gospel. The five crosses together represent the church’s mission: to spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth. They’re also said to symbolize Christ’s five wounds (hands, feet and side).



**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

May 31, 2020

| <u>Asset Accounts</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Memorial | \$ 21,445.56 |
| Thrivent | 6,650.75 |
| Checking | 4,719.11 |
| Youth | 406.38 |
| Fidelity | 92,140.96 |
| Cash Reserve | 28,771.75 |
| Mission Investment | 11,507.72 |
| Local Care | 1,891.43 |
| | Total: <u>\$ 167,533.66</u> |

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **May 31, 2019** \$197,600.99

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

| | Income Required | Actual | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | |
| <u>Used For:</u> | <u>Per Month</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
| Operating | \$ 9,565.00 | \$ 4,977.40 | \$ (4,587.60) |
| Expenses | | | |

*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
\$ 31,508.52 Funds Received to Offset Expenses

BIBLE QUIZ

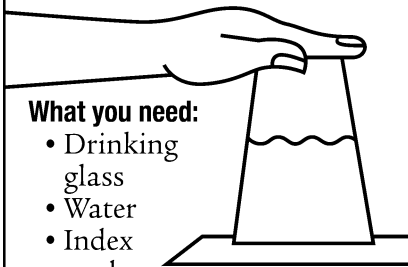
What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug



UNSEEN BUT *active*

This experiment illustrates that although God is invisible, we can see his work all around us.




What you need:

- Drinking glass
- Water
- Index card

What you do:


1. Practicing over a sink, fill the glass halfway with water. Then press the index card snugly atop the glass with one hand.
2. With the other hand, hold the base of the glass and carefully flip it over.
3. Remove your hand from the card. It should stay on the glass, without spilling the water! The invisible air in the glass creates a suction with the card, preventing the water from spilling out. Research air pressure to learn more.
4. After perfecting the trick, amaze others with it. Then talk about how God, like the air in the glass, is unseen but active.



WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.


Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.



+ e

Water changes to


JOHN 2:1-11




- k + d

Heals a man born


JOHN 9



- op +  - w


Calms a

MATTHEW 8:23-27

f +  - d

Catch of

LUKE 5:1-11



- ch + er

Walks on

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

NEW JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
INSTRUCTIONS FOR “COMMUNING ON THE LOT”

- 1) Everyone who attends must be in a car as they enter the lot.
- 2) As you approach, there will be provisions for you, from the driver’s side, to:
 - a) receive a bulletin and the elements for communion
 - b) present an offering
 - c) deposit donations for the food bank

The pre-packaged elements for communion will be in a sealed baggie. Take as many as needed for those in your car. The elements are gluten free and the drink is juice, not wine.
- 3) Once all the elements are inside the car, you should roll your window up to within 2-3 inches from the top. Please do not open the bag until you are instructed to do so by Pastor Ruth.
- 4) You will be directed to a parking space.
- 5) Please remain in your car throughout the service.
- 6) Please do not roll your car windows all the way down. Either lower them about 2 or 3 inches for air or run your air conditioner.
- 7) Tune your car radio to 87.7 FM to hear Pastor Ruth leading the service. It will sound fuzzy until the service starts.
- 8) The order of service will be brief.
- 9) Pastor Ruth will be located outside the original entrance to the church. Following a brief liturgy, she will bless the elements followed by the Lord’s Prayer. Then she will direct you to open your bags and distribute the elements to everyone in your car.
- 10) Once each person has their wafer and grape juice in hand, then you may proceed to unseal the wafer and eat it, then unseal the grape juice and drink it, thereby eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ as our Lord commanded.
- 11) Please place your empty cups back in the baggie and take it home to discard.
- 12) After the Dismissal, you are free to leave. If you are wearing a mask and maintain a 6-foot distance from others, you may get out of your car to greet one another. If you feel safer waiting in your car with your window shut, you may wait for others to walk by and greet you.
- 13) Please note: Bathroom facilities will be available inside the entrance to the church located at the top of the ramp. Please only enter and exit this way and do not go into any other area of the church. Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter and exit.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

More Stories of Being the Church in a Time of Pandemic

Holy Trinity Memorial of Catasauqua

In the letter to the church in Rome, St Paul writes, "The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.'" (Romans 13:9-10, NRSV). This has been the source of inspiration for Holy Trinity Memorial of Catasauqua

Over the past eleven weeks, Holy Trinity has turned God's abundant giving toward the neighborhood. The love of Christ, which is the fulfillment of the law, has freed us to boldly live in love with this world. The call to do God's Work with Our Hands has pushed us to our sidewalk.

How are we loving this world while on our sidewalk? By trusting that God has provided and cared for us so we can walk humbly with our neighbors. God has abundantly poured over \$15,000 into a Community Help fund at Holy Trinity. We have purchased \$1,000 worth of food from restaurants and cooked \$500 worth of raw food each week for a Catasauqua food giveaway. We can't wait to see what ventures God has planned for us once the strong need for food is able to be handled by the local food bank.



St. James, Hobbie

St. James Lutheran church in Hobbie continues to hold food distribution during these trying times. The distributions of produce, milk, eggs, and other goods have been occurring weekly as an outreach to anyone in the community - no questions asked. God's work. Our hands.



Zoom Meeting with Bishop Zeiser

On Tuesday, June 9, over 160 rostered ministers and others joined Bishop Zeiser in a Zoom meeting to receive updates on several matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bishop opened the meeting with a brief homily based on Jer. 31:15-17: *Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.* [A link to view the homily is available on the home page of the synod website at godslove.org.]

The Bishop then introduced Collin Grooms, Executive Director of Bear Creek Camp. Collin announced that summer camp has been cancelled; however, family camping and a Bear Creek Camp Conservation Corps will be available. [See the camp website for more information at bearcreekcamp.org.] The Camp will face difficult financial challenges in the coming year, but Collin is confident that the Camp will continue its ministry.

The Bishop lifted up the Online Baccalaureate Service for graduates in our synod, which was put together by Sammy Kelly and the Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team. He then introduced Julia Menzo, from Lutheran Congregational Services, who spoke about the various outreach efforts underway. [See her article below.]

The Bishop also addressed the status of Assembly 2020. Because of concerns for the safety and well-being of delegates, the Assembly will not be held at Kalahari in October as previously announced. The Assembly Planning Team is considering several options, including the possibility of an online Assembly. A recommendation will be presented to the Synod Council at their meeting on July 14, and their decision will then be announced to the synod.

Finally, the Bishop addressed challenges the church will face in the weeks and months ahead. These include the role of online worship, communion practice in a time of social distancing, and the need to confront racial injustice in our land.

Spiritual and Emotional Care in the time of COVID-19

The routines of work, school and simply running errands have been disrupted by COVID-19. The rituals we practice in worship, grieving, marriage, baptism, and more have been put on pause. These disruptions can impact our emotional and spiritual health. To meet these disruptions church leaders have offered creative worship, prayer, and fellowship opportunities; many of us have developed new routines at home and for everyday life.

Lutheran Congregational Services is partnering with a number of organizations to meet needs during COVID-19. Many offer spiritual and emotional care.

Keystone Disaster Interfaith Network has established a Spiritual Care Call Line to provide appropriate and respectful disaster spiritual care to people of all ages, races, and religions, especially in the midst of COVID-19. Call 888-255-6520.

American Red Cross's Virtual Family Assistance Center offers an Integrated Condolence Care Program. Please visit redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center.html. Of course, a number of resources are available through the ELCA at elca.org/publichealth.

Lutheran Disaster Response is creating a spiritual and emotional care training, with a focus on COVID-19, which will be available in the coming months. Please also feel free to reach out to Lutheran Congregational Services to talk to Sylvia Havlish, our bereavement counselor, about upcoming programs and services.

Email jmenzo@libertylutheran.org for more information.

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