

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net

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

Office Phone: 610.682.6064

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

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.



THE MISSION OF NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

*We are a group of people who
gather together in friendship and love
to worship God, to spread God's Word,
and to care for God's people.*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Paradise. We watched in horror as Paradise burned. We can only imagine how its residents felt and what they continue to experience. Ashes. 85 people dead. More than 80 percent of the homes destroyed. Ashes. For many of the residents, everything they had had been reduced to ashes.

But the ashes didn't just affect them, they blew eastward. Even 3,000 miles away, some of the grey weather we experienced in the weeks that followed, was attributed to ashes from Paradise and the surrounding area.

Paradise. When God created Eden it was also called Paradise, a place where everything and every creature lived in harmony with its Creator as well as everything and everyone else. That was God's plan, but something happened to disrupt Paradise (we call it sin) and that something spread like wildfire throughout creation and especially between humans. Ashes. It seemed that God's plan had been reduced to ashes.

Last fall Shane Edwards lost everything he had in Paradise. He posted a picture of all that remained: part of his fireplace. His friend, Shane Grammer, saw something else: a blank canvas and asked permission to paint that fireplace "to help people see beyond the burned building, to see that people like him cared—that Paradise could be a thing of beauty again." (Cathy Free, Morning Call, February 9, 2019) Grammer painted a mural of a woman in black and white and referenced Isaiah 61:3-4, . . .to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland (a thing of beauty) instead of ashes."

Soon others in the town offered places for Grammer to create beautiful black and white murals.

Lent is a time when we ponder ashes: all that is broken, out of harmony, destroyed. Lent is a time when we ponder the ashes of our lives and our world, of our hopes and our dreams, while at the same time we ponder how God has acted and continues to intervene so that we and the world are not left in ashes but are rebuilt into the thing of beauty he designed from the beginning. We ponder Jesus.

One of my favorite hymns for Lent is called *Ashes*. It was written by Tom Conry.

We rise again from ashes, from the good we've failed to do.
We rise again from ashes, to create ourselves anew.
If all our world is ashes, then must our lives be true,
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.

As we journey through this Lenten season, may God also grant us the eyes to not only see the ashes of our lives and our world, but to also see the beauty God is bringing forth from what looks hopeless. As we offer God our ashes, may we let God not only use them to create something beautiful, but use us to share God's vision and promises with others.

We offer you our failures, we offer you attempts;
The gifts so fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction, give our visions wider view,
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

MARCH SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of a Flower sponsor for March 10, Bulletin sponsors for March 10 and 31, an Altar Guild volunteer, Communion Bread sponsors for March 3, 6 (Ash Wednesday), and 24, and Communion Set-up volunteers for March 3 and 24. Thank you!

MARCH GREETERS SIGN-UP SHEET

Greeters are needed for March 3, 6 (Ash Wednesday), 10, 24, and 31. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE meeting
Sunday, March 3, after worship.

ASH WEDNESDAY – March 6

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church will be hosting the Ash Wednesday service this year. We will have Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be celebrated.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 10**. Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night.



FAITH FORMATION EVENT – March 10

Join us for our Faith Formation event on Sunday, March 10, after worship. We will be talking about the Exodus.

FARM FAMILY APPRECIATION CELEBRATION – Saturday, March 16, 2019

Held from **7:00-11:00 p.m.** Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Dinner buffet 7-8 p.m. Square dance, classic and modern country music by “The Majestics,” with line dance music between sets 8-11 p.m. Hamburg Field House, Exit #30 off I-78. The theme this year is “Sports.” Feel free to support your favorite team by wearing their colors! Held at the Hamburg Field House, Hamburg – Exit #30 off I-78. Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the narthex and are due by Friday, March 1, 2019.

HEALING & HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

On **Sunday, March 24**, we will have a Service of Healing and Holy Communion. This is an opportunity for the faithful to gather around each other and personally pray that each member experience healing of body, mind *and* spirit. There will be an opportunity for those who desire to come forward and receive an individual blessing. Some can also come forward to receive a blessing for others whom they are concerned about.

Please invite family members and friends to join us for worship. Please also collect concerns you hear during your daily ministry, so that we can also include those in our prayers. Let others know we will be praying for them, even if they cannot attend.

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the April 2019 newsletter is **Sunday, March 24**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE SALE

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church will be holding a shoo-fly pie bake sale **March 25-27**. If you would like to order any pies, please contact the church office. Pies are \$6.00 each. Yum!

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting on February 24 and would like a copy of the Annual Report, please contact the church office and one can be mailed to you.

CONGRATULATIONS to Timothy Jarrett Hahn on the celebration of his Baptism on Sunday, February 24.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

The sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful flowers for Easter on Sunday, April 21. If you would like to order any flowers, an order form is included in this newsletter. Please return your order form with payment to the church office by **Sunday, April 7**. Thank you!



ASHES

We begin our Lenten observance with Ash Wednesday when those who desire it can have ashes in the sign of the cross placed upon their foreheads.

Sally Foster-Fulton tells us that there are many theories about where the tradition of the ashes began.



Some say it represents our mortality and reminds us of the story of creation when God breathed into the dust, and out we came: "From dust you have come, and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19)

Some say it is a symbol of mourning and has its origin in times long ago when the cooking fire was in the living quarters, and the hearth needed constant tending so that the ashes didn't cover everything in the house. When there was sorrow at the center of a household and folk were preoccupied with that overwhelming event, the tragedy would be obvious in people's ashen appearance. Gradually, people intentionally wore the ashes as a sign of sorrow. ("Resources for Ash Wednesday" Wild Goose Publications. Used with permission.)

We read in scripture that when people were in mourning or when they became aware of and repented of their sin, they would sit in sackcloth (think burlap) and ashes.

Nobody really knows where the tradition began, but the symbolism of using ashes is profound. What is even more profound is how God in Jesus responded and continues to respond in mercy to those who acknowledge and respond to God's call to repentance.

Did You Know?

CHALICE AND CROSS

The chalice with a cross rising from it symbolizes Christ's obedient suffering, even unto death. The cross is called a "passion cross," with pointed ends that represent suffering. We remember that in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus begged his Father that the "cup" of suffering be taken from him. But ultimately, he prayed, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39, NIV).



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES



We will again be joining with various churches belonging to the Brandywine Ministerium to celebrate Lent. The theme for this year will be "My Grandfather's Blessings." The services begin at **7:00 p.m.** Listed below are the dates and locations:

- March 6 **Ash Wednesday**
New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Preacher: Pastor Cheryl Meinschein
- March 13 Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers
Preacher: Pastor Cheryl Meinschein
- March 20 Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers
Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty
- March 27 Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
Preacher: Pastor Roger Ulrich
- April 3 New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Preacher: Pastor Mike Combs
- April 10 **(Location to be announced)**
Preacher: Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman
- April 17 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown
Preacher: Pastor Paul Schoffstall
(soup/salad meal starting at 6 p.m.)
- April 18 **Maundy Thursday**
Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
Preacher: Pastor Paul Schoffstall
- April 19 **Good Friday**
Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers
Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty

AN IRISH BLESSING

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you—
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.





Thank you for returning your Mission Support Intention Card for 2019. Here is just one example of the many ministries that are made possible by your mission support gifts to and through the Northeastern PA Synod:

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Members, on behalf of all the volunteer firefighters here at Lyons Fire Company #1, we would like to extend a sincere thank you for your recent donation of \$296.40 to our fire equipment fund. We appreciate your support so we can continue to provide professional fire and rescue services to our community. Please keep our volunteer first responders in your prayers to keep them safe as they serve our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Thanks again! – *Jerry L. Keller, Assistant Fire Chief*

* * * * *

Dear Friend, thank you so much for participating in our Christmas-At-Sea Holiday Initiative. With your help, our six port chaplains delivered the 1,853 satchels assembled by individuals, youth and senior groups, businesses and congregations. You should have seen the look on the seafarers’ faces as they appreciated the warm clothing and heartwarming Christmas and Holiday greetings from total strangers. Your contribution brought joy to seafarers out in the open sea, far away from loved ones and family. On their behalf, thank you! – *Pastor Marsh Luther Drege, Executive Director, Seafarers International House*

* * * * *

Dear New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, what a gift you’ve given! Thank you for your recent gift of \$150.00 to the ELCA ministries through ELCA Good Gifts. Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you’re equipping God’s people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives. Thank you for your support of the vital ministries that we do together—and for your very good gift. – *Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement*

Note: Much more was given by members of New Jerusalem. The \$150 was the amount passed through the congregation’s books.

* * * * *

Dear Members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you so much for your recent food and monetary donation to the Brandywine Food Pantry. We appreciate your continued support! Sincerely, *St. Peter’s UCC*

On behalf of Bear Creek Camp staff, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your kind and generous donations. This summer changed everything for me and many others. I was so blessed to be a Bear Creek Camp’s Day Camp leader. I got to spend each week with a new congregation that filled me with so much joy and energy. The people at camp became my extended family and I will never be able to express deep connections to the camp. My faith grew even stronger in the 11 weeks of camp and brought me closer to God, the staff and the children. I was blessed with this opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people. Our mission would not be possible without you and your congregation. – Blessings, *Samantha Johns*

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

Lent, the season of the church year that’s associated with repentance, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

It causes us to STOP. Lent says, “Stop and rest awhile,” as well as “Stop doing wrong.”



It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren’t only important for our safety in travel; they’re also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.

– Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Zion Moselem Lutheran Church, 340 Moselem Church Road, Kutztown, will be hosting the World Day of Prayer on **Saturday, March 2, at 9:00 a.m.** The speaker will be Francine Scoboria from Safe Berks. Tickets are \$4.00/each and can be purchased by calling Zion's church office at 610.683.6853. Call Phyllis Stitzel at 610.401.4063 with your name and number of people attending. If attending, they are asking that you bring along two baked good items.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Bloom Where You Are Planted is an exciting, new one-day leadership event that is planned for youth, adult and rostered leaders of our East Berks and West Berks Mission Districts. The event will be held on **Saturday, March 9, 2019** at Christ Lutheran Church, 16 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood, from **9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** A list of the workshops is on the bulletin board. Costs will be covered. Please see Pastor Ruth ASAP to sign up.

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

On **Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m.** Dr. Lee Barrett will be presenting "Political Reconciliation." The nation is politically divided into blue states vs. red states, and that division is reflected in families and congregations. We will explore ways that the basic convictions of our Christian faith can be used to overcome these barriers. Held at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main Street, Kutztown. Food and drink are available for purchase.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FORUMS

The Lutheran Home at Topton will be running Bereavement Support Forums the third Tuesday of each month at **10:00 a.m.** Led by Rev. Dr. Colleen Kristula, Chaplain at the Lutheran Home at Topton, they will be held in Deibert Hall, first floor of D-wing. On **March 19, 2019** – *Meaning Making: Journaling, Living Memorials, Rituals*. A time for sharing and refreshments will follow each program or presentation. There is no fee to attend, but please register at 610.682.1334. Weather related cancellations will be recorded at the same number.

FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST

The Boy Scouts of Troop #585 will be holding their annual Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast at Applebee's, 7150 Hamilton Boulevard, Trexlertown, on **Saturday, March 23, from 8:00-10:00 a.m.** Tickets are \$7.00/person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Tracey Hersh at 610.393.7937.

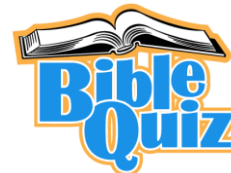
FEED THE NEED MEAL PACKAGING PROJECT

How would you like to be part of a group that hopes to assemble 20,000 meals to fight hunger in Berks County? If this sounds like fun to you, join other volunteers at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, on **Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** Please arrive by 9:30 a.m. to sign in and have a quick training. The event will be held in their new social hall and is open to those 10 years old and up. There is also help needed setting up and cleaning up. Please specify the times you are able to help. For more information, please contact Carla at 815.621.7299 or Carla.flemming64@gmail.com.



BOY SCOUT TROOP EASTER EGG HUNT

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 13, at 12 noon** when Boy Scout Troop #585 will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 12 and under. Held rain or shine.



In John 9, Jesus' disciples ask whether a certain man or his parents sinned, causing his disability. Jesus says, "Neither. ... [It was] so that God's works might be revealed in him." What was this man's disability?

- A. Deafness
- B. Lameness
- C. Blindness
- D. Epilepsy

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts
January 31, 2019**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 25,071.80
Thrivent	7,034.20
Checking	4,462.19
Youth	404.87
Fidelity	135,858.19
Cash Reserve	17,869.89
Mission Investment	11,354.66
Local Care	<u>1,613.75</u>
Total	<u>\$ 203,669.55</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **January 31, 2018** \$ 211,843.83

January 2019 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’

Income

	Income Required	Actual	
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,077.08	\$ 5,033.00	\$ (4,044.08)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2019 Budget
Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

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

\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Project
\$ 25,634.54 Funds Received to offset expenses

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Audrey Hoffman, Leon Moyer, Irene Noll, and Joyce Rothermel.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Erma Guinther, Sharon Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, John Keck, Phillip Litschke, Sheila Long, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Horace Rothermel, and Dale Schwoyer.

Friends of the congregation: Thelma Bright, Bill Collins, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Kenny Fink, Eric Fox, Becky Graeff, Mamie Guinther, Corinne Hersh, David Jenkins, Angie Kistler, Joe Klick, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Michael M., Michelle Meck, Rodney Muthard, Nicolette Nolte, Kyle Olinger, Jackson Radcliffe, Leticia Weaver, Leah Wiest, Dennis Wright, and Laraine Wuchter.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for our nation, our president, congress and judicial system; an end to the fear that keeps us from getting to know our local and international neighbors; peace in the world and between citizens and those who serve them; our military personnel serving around the world; areas enduring drought, storms, flooding, fire and other disasters; migrants and refugees and the countries to which they flee.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Millie Berger, Sandy Burkart, Evelyn Collins Alice Epler, Barbara Feeman, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Steve Haage, Janis Kershner, Lauren Kinney, Anh La., Tonya Peterschein, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Katie S., Rayjeana Schultz, Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Jacqi Wagner, and Rachel Woodhead.



“Faith grows only in the dark. You’ve got to trust [God] when you can’t trace him. That’s faith.”

—Lyell Rader



- 3 Linda Guinther
- 10 Tammy Barlet
- 13 Judith Kemmerer
- 18 Sara Moyer
- 19 Lucille Jones
- 21 Cindy Rissmiller
- 25 Barbara Johnson
- 25 Lillian Jones
- 26 Donald Gajewski
- 28 Jerry Keller



- 3 Earl Derr and Gladys Kline (3 years)
- 24 Lester and Tammy Barlet (31 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.

HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP FOR LENT

For centuries Lutherans have observed Lent with passionate devotion and prayerful attention to spiritual disciplines. These faith practices strengthen our souls and open our hearts to the resurrected Christ at Easter.

This year, try developing a sense of holistic stewardship for your life. Stewardship, of course, looks at how we use not just our financial abundance but all the blessings that God has given us—our health, our family and friends, our faith, our time, our intelligence, and so on.

Just as holistic medicine takes a “big picture” view of physical health as a dynamic interconnection of our body’s systems, holistic stewardship helps us see and appreciate all our gifts in relationship to one another.

For instance, how does your stewardship of time interact with your stewardship of your relationships or health? How might more-thoughtful stewardship of your time improve your relationships or your health? How might better stewardship of time, relationships and health improve your financial abundance?

When you examine your stewardship of these and all your gifts in dynamic interconnection with one another, you can find more meaning and purpose as a disciple of Jesus.

To get there, for the days of Lent focus on just five major categories of the blessings God has given you easily remembered by the shorthand word FAITH.

- Family and friends – nurturing relationships
- Abundance – finance and material possessions
- Intelligence – your mind and special talents
- Time – living fully 24/7
- Health – physical and emotional wellness

Spend 15 minutes every day to prayerfully ponder and meditate on these FAITH blessings. A prayer journal or notebook may help you process and connect.

- Take stock of your blessings in each category, thanking God for them.
- Reflect on how they interrelate to give you joy and purpose and meaning.
- Ask God to help you use these gifts more wisely and fully for God’s purposes.
- Imagine God blessing and enriching your life as you learn to steward these gifts in a way that they will support and enhance one another.

This Lent, let holistic stewardship help you envision your gifts and life more fully in God’s reality, the reality called the Reign of God. It’s the Reign that Jesus preached and proclaimed, and that he brought to fulfillment with the victory over death that we celebrate at Easter.

—Rob Blezard



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THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March

*	3	10:00 AM	Transfiguration of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W) ▪ Stewardship Meeting after worship
	6	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (P) ▪ Held at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
	10	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent (P) ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
	13	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – Hope Lutheran, Bowers
*	17	10:00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent (P)
	20	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers
	24	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent (P) ▪ Healing Service and Holy Communion
	27	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville
*	31	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent (P)

April

	3	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – New Jerusalem Lutheran
	7	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent (P) – Holy Communion
	10	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – (Location to be announced)
*	14	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday (P) – Holy Communion
	17	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) – St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown (soup and salad supper at 6 p.m., service at 7 p.m.)
	18	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday (W) – Holy Communion
	19	7:00 PM	Good Friday
	21	10:00 AM	Easter Sunday (W) – Holy Communion
*	28	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Easter (W)

May

	5	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Easter (W) – Holy Communion
♦	12	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Easter (W) ▪ Mother's Day Breakfast (before worship)
	19	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday of Easter (W)
*	26	10:00 AM	Sixth Sunday of Easter (W)

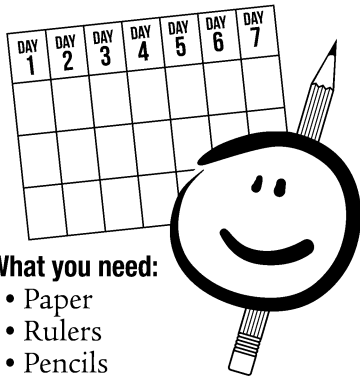
FELLOWSHIP DATES:

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



DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1–2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1–2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) ____ Day 2 (waters) ____ Day 3 (land and plants) ____ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) ____
 Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ Day 6 (land animals and people) ____ Day 7 (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
3/3	TBA	Sara Jane Beshore	Gladys Kline and Earl Derr	Gladys Kline and Earl Derr
3/6 - Ash Wednesday	TBA	TBA	--	--
3/10	TBA	Dawn Wengert	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
3/17	Josh Keck	Ty Rissmiller	Dale Schwoyer	Cheryl Wiltrot
3/24	TBA	Ken Keck	Lucille Jones	Lucille Jones
3/31	TBA	Roy Merkel	Judith Kemmerer	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>

ALTAR GUILD: *(volunteer needed)*

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Lucille Jones

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Lucille Jones

COMMUNION BREAD: 3/3 – *(sponsor needed)*; 3/6 – *(sponsor needed)*; 3/24 – *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION SET-UP: 3/3 – *(volunteer needed)*; 3/6 – Faye Dey; 3/24 – *(volunteer needed)*

COUNCILPERSON: Gladys Kline

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

MARCH 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	2
3 Transfiguration of Our Lord ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Stewardship Meeting after worship	4 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	5 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	6 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Ash Wednesday Service, New Jerusalem Lutheran ▪ Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes ASH WEDNESDAY	7	8 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	9 9:00am-2:30pm- Leadership Workshop, Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
10 First Sunday in Lent ▪ Faith Formation Event DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	11 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	12 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm-Theology with a Twist, Kutztown Tavern 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	13 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Hope Lutheran, Bowers	14	15 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	16 7:00-11:00pm-Farm Family Appreciation Celebration, Hamburg Field House
17 Second Sunday in Lent ▪ Fellowship after worship ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	19 10:00am-Bereavement Support Forum, Topton Lutheran Home 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	20 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers SPRING BEGINS	21	22 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	23 8:00-10:00am-Boy Scout Troop 585 Pancake Fundraiser, Applebee's, Trexlertown 10:00am-12:00pm- Package Meals for Hungry Folks, Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville
24 Third Sunday in Lent ▪ Healing Service and Holy Communion NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	26 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	27 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville	28	29 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	30
31 Fourth Sunday in Lent ▪ Fellowship after worship	SHOO-FLY BAKE-----▶	-----▶	-----▶			

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Café Esperanza - Domestic Hunger Grant Recipient



Café Esperanza, a pay-what-you-can model community café, is scheduled to open in late Spring 2019. It is our vision that all people, regardless of financial means, deserve an opportunity to eat delicious, nutritious food. The café will serve breakfast and lunch, utilizing local, organic and seasonal foods as much as possible, highlighting the delicious products of local farmers.

Located in a densely populated neighborhood in the Northwest section of Reading, a city with a poverty rate of 43%, Café Esperanza will provide a place for people of all walks

of life to gather and get to know one another. Most of the labor will be provided by volunteers, including those who are offered a chance to exchange an hour of work for a meal, as well as others who simply enjoy serving their neighbors in this way. There will also be a job training aspect of our work. Young people will learn all aspects of food service, including the opportunity to receive barista training.

We are grateful for our recent grant from the ELCA Domestic Hunger program, as well as support from this Synod, the East Berks Mission District, the Reading Lutheran Parish, the Berks County Community Foundation, and many congregations and individual partners. For opportunities to contribute or volunteer, please follow us on Facebook (search for Cafe Esperanza).



The goal of the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal is to work toward "a just world where all are fed." Addressing this goal includes not only providing food for hungry people, but perhaps more importantly empowering people to provide a brighter future for themselves through community development, job training, and advocating for a more equitable distribution of the earth's resources.

In addition to supporting projects in more than 60 foreign countries, the World Hunger Appeal also administers a Domestic Hunger Grant program. Last year 77 grants were awarded to ministries and organizations in the United States that both address the root causes of hunger and provide relief services for those in need. Our synod received the two grants featured in this edition of *Synod News*.

Domestic Hunger Grant applications will be accepted again in 2019. Please check the program's web site - elca.org/domestichungergrants - to learn about the process and timeline for submitting an application. The web site can also give you more information about ELCA World Hunger's strategic priorities, at home and around the world.

Synod Assembly 2019



The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on June 1 at Genetti Inn and Suites in Hazleton.

Online registration will open by the end of March - check your eNews and the website - but NOW'S the time to start GETTING READY!

The good news is: we've met the challenge of fitting all the necessary programming into one action-packed day. This means, you can save time and expense this year, saving up for next year (2020) when we will need three days to elect a new bishop.

More good news: REGISTRATION COST for voting members will be only \$100, while visitors this year will pay \$20 (which covers the cost of the full luncheon). Any and all are encouraged to attend.

To bring it all together in one day, we ask your help to make a couple things happen:

FIRST - we ask all congregations to select their two voting members by the end of March - for many of us, that means at our March Council Meetings.

SECOND - Those voting members should also plan to attend their MISSION DISTRICT ASSEMBLY, which usually happens in April or May. Important information will be shared and actions will take place at these local events, which will help set up and streamline work at the Assembly.

Stayed tuned for more details, as we discover in Christ... "What A Difference A Day Makes!"

Domestic Hunger Grant Recipient Easton Hunger Coalition



Easton, along with the neighboring cities of Bethlehem and Allentown, comprises the area known as the Lehigh Valley, which is the third most populous region in Pennsylvania. While recently Easton has enjoyed an economic rebirth, largely on high-end restaurants, artisan food shops, and a hugely successful farmers' market, too many households rely on emergency food from pantries and free meal centers. Over 50% of the area school children receive the federally funded free/reduced meal, and close to 1/3 of the Easton households self-identified in the most recent census as earning below the poverty level.

In 2014 a group of activists came together to form the Easton Hunger Coalition with the urging of a member of Arndt's Lutheran Church. The church has a long-standing relationship with food and community, although it is located outside of the Easton downtown. Persistent engagement around hunger relief guided the congregation to support multiple programs to help households reduce food insecurity.

The Coalition applied for an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant to strengthen the organization; increase collaboration; and develop new tools to increase compassionate response to hunger, reduce stigmas associated with poverty, and to support self-advocacy



programming and a significant public awareness program. Arndt's Lutheran Church as fiscal agent for the grant will support and guide this important work over the next three years. Their goal is "Hunger-Free in '23" for the Easton area, enabling a healthy community where all have access to nutritious food.

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

(Daffodils, Hyacinths, Lilies, Mini Daffodils, Tulips)

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ ENV. # _____

DEDICATION: _____

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Cost</u>	=	<u>Total</u>
Daffodils (8" pot)	_____ X	\$8.50	=	_____
Hyacinths	_____ X	\$7.50	=	_____
Lilies	_____ X	\$10.00	=	_____
Mini Daffodils (6" pot)	_____ X	\$7.50	=	_____
Tulips	_____ X	\$7.50	=	_____

Total Amount Due: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

_____ *I will pick up my flowers after the Easter service.*

_____ *Please donate my flowers to a homebound member.*

**Please return this form with payment to church office
or offering plate by Sunday, April 7.**