

## THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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



"The fullness of joy is to behold God  
in everything." - JULIAN OF NORWICH

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.*



The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.  
*Julian of Norwich 14<sup>th</sup> century*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God comes and speaks to us in and through the ordinary. God in Jesus came to us as a tiny baby, one of thousands born that day. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, one of thousands in that wilderness. God speaks to us through rainbows. God comes to us in water and in bread. As we begin our Lenten season we find that ordinary dust draws us into contemplation. Dust in the form of ashes marked in a cross upon our foreheads reminds us not only of our humanity, but that God doesn't ever give up on us, that death does not have the final word.

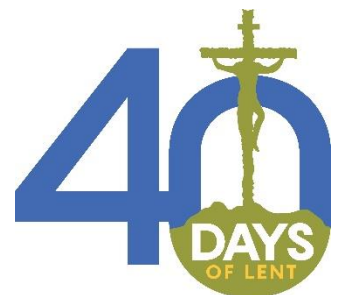
In her Lenten study, "Lent in Plain Sight" Jill Duffield reminds us of many ways God speaks to us through ordinary everyday objects and occurrences: coins in our purses, shoes, stones, a phone call from a friend at just the right time. Often we don't recognize until later that these can point to ways God is present and at work in our lives. Jill encourages us to allow common objects and encounters to remind us to stay awake, pay attention, and consider the possibility that God is continually present in the everyday, speaking to us and seeking to be in relationship with us.

Think of something ordinary you encounter. How might it remind you that God is with you? Did you put salt on your eggs this morning? That might remind us that Jesus said we are the salt of the earth. Did it feel good to shower after work or sports? Could you feel the water and soap wash away the fatigue and grime? What a great way to remember the waters of baptism. Did a drink of water make you feel more alive? Jesus called himself living water. Did turning on a light as you entered a dark room remind you that Jesus is the true light shining in the darkness or that Jesus said we are to be the light of the world. Those coins you put out for that cup of coffee might remind you of how money can be used to show our love to God or tempt us away from trusting that God will act in God's time. (Think of the coins the widow put into the collection box in the temple or the silver that Judas accepted to betray his Lord.)

How exciting it would be if those reading this newsletter made a list of the ordinary objects or events they encountered this month that made them aware of God's presence and care! In fact, why not try it? Take time at the end of each day to identify one time or one object that helped you become aware of God's presence or a Bible teaching or story. Treasure and thank God for that awareness. Let's find a way to share these with one another, perhaps at the beginning of worship each Sunday.

It is Jill Duffield's hope and mine that paying attention to ordinary things in life "will enable us to see God everywhere, in all things, all creation, not just during these forty days of Lent, but every single day of the year," until we can sense God's presence "every single moment and act accordingly."

*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 February 10:

- Congratulations to our newly elected council officers: Cheryl Wiltrout-President, Ty Rissmiller-Vice President, Gladys Kline-Secretary. Also welcome to our new council members: Sara Jane Beshore, Ted Eshbach, and Diane Keller.
- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chairperson, provided a financial update on New Jerusalem.

## MARCH SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Flower sponsors for March 22 and 29, a Bulletin sponsor for March 22, a Communion Set-up volunteer for March 1, and an Altar Guild volunteer. We also need Greeters for March 15 and 29. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex if you can help. Thank you!

**PASTOR RUTH** will be out of town from **Monday, February 17 to Monday, February 24**. If you would require pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Tom Lang at 610.944.8388 or 215.527.4213.

## BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join us for Bible Study on **Thursday, February 27, March 5, March 19 and March 26 at 10:00 a.m.**

## POTLUCK SUPPER AND MOVIE

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 29, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** when New Jerusalem will have a Potluck Supper and show a short movie. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex to mark if you will be attending so we can be prepared. If at the last minute you can come, but didn't sign up, please join us anyway. The more the merrier.

## THREADS FOR OTHERS

Our next gatherings will be on **Wednesday, March 4, and March 18 from 2:30-6:00 p.m.** If the weather is in question, contact Sara Jane at 610-987-9214 or Pastor Ruth at 484-553-1162. See below for more details.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8. Please remember to **turn your clocks ahead one hour** before going to bed Saturday night.

## FAITH FORMATION EVENT

The next Faith Formation events are scheduled for **Sunday, March 8, and Sunday, March 29, beginning at 12 noon.**

## CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

The next meeting of the 7 local churches in conversation will take place on **Tuesday, March 10, at 4:30 p.m.** at New Jerusalem. You are always welcome to join us.

**PASTOR RUTH** will be attending a Confirmation Retreat at Bear Creek Camp with Justin Keller and Josh Keck from **Friday, March 13, to Sunday, March 15**. If you would require pastoral care during this time, you can still call her.

## APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the April 2020 newsletter is **Sunday, March 22**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

New Jerusalem will be serving a Spaghetti Dinner on **Saturday, March 28, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** Cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 8 and under. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, drinks and desserts. 10% of the profits will go towards Feed (the ongoing) Need Meal Packaging Project at Christ Mertz. If you would like to help with donating desserts or would like to be on the committee to help plan and serve at this event, please sign up in the narthex or talk with Ty Rissmiller, Ken or Josh Keck, or Betty Eshbach.

## EASTER FLOWERS

The sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful flowers for Easter on Sunday, April 12. 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, March 29**.

## 2020 FARM FAMILY APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

**Saturday, March 21, from 7:00-11:00 p.m.** Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Dinner buffet 7-8 p.m. Square dance and line dancing, hoedown and country music by "The Outlaws," 8-11 p.m. This year's theme is "Trucks." Feel free to support your favorite brand of truck. Held at the Hamburg Field House, Exit #30 off I-78. Everyone is invited. Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the narthex and are due by Friday, March 6, 2020.

## YARD SHARE IS BACK

Our Yard Share is coming on **Saturday, April 25**. Donations for the Yard Share can be brought to church starting the day after Easter (April 12). Baked goods, hot dogs, and drinks will be offered. Interested in helping set up on April 18? Speak with Ken, Ty, Josh, or Betty.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Winter weather delays and closings for our worship services can be found on radio stations WFMZ, WAEB 790 AM, on Channel 69 news, or by calling the church office at 610.682.6064 where a recorded message will let you know whether a service or event has been cancelled.

## WONDROUS LOVE: DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2020

*Wondrous Love* provides a devotion for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Vigil of Easter. Each day consists of quotations to ponder, reflections and prayers. Pick up a copy for yourself or your family from the table in the narthex. Large print editions are also available.

## LENTEN PRAYERS FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

Copies of Bread for the World's Lenten Prayers for an End to Hunger for 2020 are available on the table in the narthex. This "tent table" consists of readings, prayers, and actions to help you and your family observe Lent in 2020.

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting on February 9 and would like a copy of the Annual Report, please contact the church office and one can be mailed to you.



Forgot what this is? If you can or would like to learn how to sew, crochet, knit, or help with things like ironing or cutting material, come join us as we

make items to help others. You can bring whatever you are working on or help us with one of the many projects we have going on. Please invite others to join us.

We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 2:30-6:00 p.m. Come when you can and stay as long as you are able.



We will again be joining together with various churches belonging to the Brandywine Ministerium to celebrate Lent. The theme for this year is "Lent in Plain Sight." The services begin at **7:00 p.m.** Listed below is the tentative schedule.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 26 | <b>Ash Wednesday</b><br>Imposition of Ashes and Communion<br>St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown<br>Preacher: Pastor Cheryl Meinschein |
| March 4     | Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville<br>Preacher: Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman   |
| March 11    | Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton<br>Preacher: Pastor Roger Ulrich  |
| March 18    | Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers<br>Preacher: Pastor Ruth Doty   |
| March 25    | Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers<br>Preacher: Pastor Laura Stoneback  |
| April 1     | Christian Congregation, Mertztown<br>Preacher: Pastor Cheryl Meinschein   |
| April 8     | <b>Spy Wednesday</b><br>St. Paul's Lutheran, Mertztown<br>Preacher: Pastor Michael Combs<br>(soup/salad meal before worship)      |
| April 9     | <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>New Jerusalem Lutheran<br>Preacher: Pastor Laura Stoneback  |
| April 10    | <b>Good Friday (Service of Readings)</b><br>Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville   |





## WE'LL MEET THE MOST INTERESTING PEOPLE AT WORSHIP THIS MONTH

In our gospel lessons this month we will meet:

- \* Jesus wandering in the wilderness where he meets Satan, the Tester.
- \* Nicodemus, the man with the questions. Even though he knew his scripture well and was sincere about wanting to follow God, he had a hard time understanding what Jesus was talking about. Sometimes we do, too.
- \* The Samaritan woman at the well. Used to being isolated and lonely, she doubted a stranger, a foreigner, had anything to offer her. Then he spoke and what he had to say excited her so much, she ran to get others to listen to him. How often do we miss hearing something important because we don't think the speaker has much to offer?
- \* The man born blind. Instead of rejoicing with him when he was healed, some people gave him a hard time about how that came to be. Then they criticized Jesus because he didn't share God's love "by the book." Sometimes our "rules" about how something ought to be done get in the way of sharing God's love.
- \* Lazarus. Jesus wept when he heard that his good friend Lazarus had died. Then he spoke the words that remind us that for God death does not have the final word. From what "tombs" would Jesus call us forth, from what would he unbind us?



But that's not all. We will also meet, live and in the flesh:

- \* March 1, the Johnson-Agiri family: brothers and sisters in faith who are seeking asylum in our country.
- \* March 8, Kaia Nicole Harnish, infant daughter of Jackie and Andrew Harnish and granddaughter of Sherri and Alan Carl who will be baptized into our family.
- \* Those you encourage and invite to join us as we worship and celebrate being God's people in this place. Could this be a time you reach out to a member who hasn't come for a while, or specifically invite someone you know?

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1 – LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS –**  
Meet our brothers and sisters in faith: the Johnson-Agiri family.

On March 1, the Johnson-Agiri family will join us for worship. Because this Christian family feared for their lives in their home country of Nigeria, they decided to come to the United States.

Even though the family arrived with a valid family visitor's visa, they were detained at their port of entry. Since May of 2017 they have been seeking asylum in this country. They spent a few weeks in the Berks Family Detention Center and since then have been assisted by GRIP, the Greater Reading Immigration Program, which includes the West Berks Mission District (WBMD) of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. It is through WBMD that we have come to know the family whom we continue to hold in our prayers.

The family's application for asylum must go through a hearing, but this hearing has been rescheduled numerous times and is now set for October 2020. Meanwhile the parents have received permission to work and are doing so.

Tola, the father of the family, graduated from the University of Lagos with a degree in Biochemistry and worked at a water processing facility in Lagos, the largest city of Nigeria, before fleeing north because the lives and welfare of his family were seriously threatened. However, life was not safe there for people of faith, Christians or Muslims. Two different groups, the Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsmen, were literally destroying whole villages and taking many captives. The family fled back to Lagos and were advised to come to the U.S.

Tola and Abigail have 4 children ages 11, 8, 6 and 1. They currently worship with fellow Christians from Nigeria at Redeemed Christian Church which meets at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing.

We have invited Tola to share with us on the Sunday in which we read the lesson of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness. Certainly this family has experienced life in the wilderness of uncertainty and great fear, yet their faith, like that of Jesus, continues to help them survive. We look forward to hearing their message of how God has been with them and what their experiences have meant for their faith.

Tola will share God's word with us during the sermon. During our fellowship time we will hear more of the family's story. Please plan to stay and learn more about not only the situation in Nigeria, but what they have experienced so far in the United States.

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

### OF ROCKS AND REPENTANCE

Before recently closing to tourists, Australia's majestic Uluru (formerly called Ayers Rock) was popular with climbers. Many took home illegal souvenirs, sometimes later mailing them back to park rangers after experiencing what they considered bad luck.



So many pilfered mementos were returned, often with notes of apology, that rangers called them "sorry rocks." The returns merely created more work for park staff, who urged visitors not to take specimens in the first place.

"Sorry rocks" is a fitting image for our sins, which the Bible describes as weights and entanglements (see Hebrews 12:1). As sinners, we can't remove those heavy burdens on our own. But through Christ's redeeming work on our behalf, we can "return" the rocks of wrongdoing. When we repent and seek forgiveness, God promises to "remember [our] sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



### 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 Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, Patricia Keck, Penny Keller, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Joanne Pauley, Joyce Rothermel, Sue Schlenker, Elaine Seip, Gary and Vikie Seyfert, and Dawn Wartzenluft.

**Friends of the congregation:** Gayle Arndt, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Carson Bosma, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Family and friends of Earl Delp, Mark Derr, Gary DeWees, Randy Dreibelbis, Denise Ebelhar, Jennifer Engle, Eric Fox, Kevin Greenawalt, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Corinne Hersh, Clair Hunsinger, Johnson-Agiri Family, Denise Keim, Sue Kerny, Emily Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, Cayden Kresge, Anh La, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Doris Meadway, Rodney Muthard, Duane Petersheim, Ruth Ramsey, Rich Reimert, Roger Schollenberger, Family and friends of Dawn Schwoyer, Patricia Sigfried, The Spatz family, Leticia Weaver, Diane Whitehead, Althea Young, Barry, and Pat.

**OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:** We pray for our nation: our president, congress and judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end for 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:** Millie Berger, Sandy Burkart, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, David Jenkins, Janis Kershner, Michael M., Michelle Meck, Nancy Meck, Tonya Petersheim, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Jacqi Wagner, and Leah Wiest.

# NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

## FEED THE NEED FOOD PACKAGING PROJECT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Your help is needed packing meals, making boxes, and keeping tables supplied for the Feed the Need Meal Packaging Project on **Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville. (Please arrive by 9:30 a.m. for sign in and a quick training session.) 20,000 meal goal and all meals will be donated to Berks County Food Banks. Must be 10 years old or older to participate. If interested, please contact Carla Flemming at [Carla.flemming64@gmail.com](mailto:Carla.flemming64@gmail.com) or 815.621.7299.

## SPIRIT ON TAP

Dr. Greg Carey presents "Parables in a Fake News World" on **Tuesday, March 24, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn Street, Reading. Spirit on Tap's purpose is to encourage theological discussion, explore alternative views, and stimulate dialogue around issues of faith and spirituality. There is no charge and all are welcome. For more information, contact Dr. Harry Serio at 610.944.7032 or [HLSerio@aol.com](mailto:HLSerio@aol.com).

## SOUL'D OUT QUARTET – LIVE IN CONCERT!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 117 E. Arch Street, Fleetwood, will be hosting this southern gospel group on **Sunday, March 29, beginning at 6 p.m.** (doors open at 5 p.m.) Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Children ages 5-12 are \$5. For tickets, contact George/Gayle Ditzler at 610-693-4059 or Shannon/Melissa Neff at 610-944-9820. A love offering will be taken.

## GREATER READING IMMIGRATION PROJECT 2020 IMMIGRATION SUMMIT

**Monday, March 23, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** McGlenn Conference Center adjacent to Alvernia University. Keynote speaker: Gisele Fetterman, Pennsylvania's Second Lady, sharing her story: "From 'invisible undocumented immigrant to loud, proud advocate!" Registration fee of \$25 includes lunch. Register by Friday, March 13. See bulletin board or register online at [www.readingGRIP.org](http://www.readingGRIP.org).



## WHAT IS GRIP?

GRIP (Greater Reading Immigration Project) is a coalition of community volunteers working to raise awareness about immigration issues in Berks County through education, communication and advocacy. Their primary focus is to educate the community on the issues facing local youth and their families as they seek to continue their education, research possible paths to citizenship and safely become productive, contributing members of the community.

Some of the ways these volunteers are engaged are:

- providing guidance for students on the college admission process and available resources
- partnering with agencies that advocate for families being held at the Family Detention Center in Bern Township and support efforts to end long-term detention and separation of families
- organizing an annual Immigration Summit and offer presentations to community groups
- refer to a network of organizations involved with support services for immigrants.
- maintain a website at [www.readinggrip.org](http://www.readinggrip.org).

## SAVE THE DATE!

Bear Creek Camp & YOYOFa presents May Play Day! An afternoon of connections and camp awesomeness. **Sunday, May 3, 2:00-7:00 p.m.** \$4.00 children under 12, \$8.00 teens and adults. High ropes, rock wall, boating, games, hiking, songs, and dinner. Registration due April 24. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

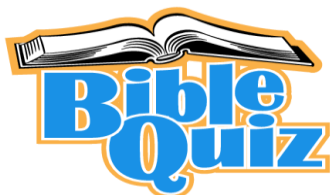


- 3 Linda Guinther
- 13 Judith Kemmerer
- 18 Sara Moyer
- 19 Lucille Jones
- 21 Cindy Rissmiller
- 25 Barbara Johnson
- 25 Lillian Jones
- 26 Donald Gajewski
- 28 Jerry Keller



- 5 Gladys Kline and Earl Derr (4 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.*



Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."



Answer: D (see John 3:1-16)

## A PUBLIC BLOG FROM Nicole LeCrone Estep

January 1 – Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time. The preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!**

**B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

Estep notes at the beginning of her blog: If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious (like Nicodemus), there is still hope!

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"May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door.



- Irish blessing





## STEWARD YOUR SOUL FOR A FULLER LIFE

Jesus teaches, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” – Mark 8:36, 37 (NIV)

Instead of the superficial “How’s it going?” a wise colleague asks friends, “How is your soul?”

The question requires effort. To answer it I must plunge deep inside – below the constantly churning waters of everyday joys, hopes, ambitions, desires, anxieties and disappointments. These are so strong, especially our desires and ambitions, that if we are not careful they can absorb all our time and energy.

Jesus repeatedly warns us not to let our desires and our worries overwhelm us, keeping us from paying attention to the soul. Our soul is where we connect with God, the source of our greatest strength and truest identity. Without attention, our soul can wither like a plant without water. As with all the treasures God has given us, we must be stewards of our souls.

The mystics of old and modern prophets (such as Richard Rohr, Marjorie Thompson, and Howard Thurman) teach us to employ prayer, holy silence, and other spiritual disciplines to tend our souls and keep worldly worries and desires from drowning us.

This month, begin a daily practice of caring for your soul. You might begin with five minutes of spoken prayer followed by five minutes of silence. Or reflect deeply on a Scripture passage. Or try prayerful yoga. (Your pastor might be able to give you some resources or ideas.)

With a little practice and attention, you can become stronger, more centered, and more spiritually resilient.

—Rob Blezard

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With both of us being in the hospital recently, it was difficult for us to cook meals. We would like to thank the ladies from New Jerusalem who prepared and delivered meals to us so we would have something to eat. – *Horace and Joyce Rothermel*



Dear Congregation of New Jerusalem,  
Thank you for your donations of 17 Christmas gifts for children of our pantry clients and for your Holiday Dinner Boxes. The generosity from your congregation helped to make this past Holiday season a little brighter for those in need. This past December we served 808 pantry individuals in 291 households. And with your help we were able to provide Christmas gifts for 264 local children residing in the Brandywine Heights, Fleetwood, and Kutztown school districts. – From the clients, staff and Board of Friend, Inc. Community Services, we sincerely thank you and wish you a successful 2020!



Dear New Jerusalem Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your generous gifts to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts. Your Good Gifts are very good gifts 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 leadership in the vital ministries that we do together – and for your very good gift! – In God’s abundant grace, *Rachel Wind, Executive for Development*

## Did You Know?

### IHS

This sacred monogram originally appeared as “IHC,” the first three letters of “IHCOCY,” the Greek word for Jesus. Over time the Greek “C” was replaced by the Latin “S” to become “IHS.” There are many interpretations given to the letters “IHS,” including the Latin “Iesus Hominum Salvator” (Jesus, Savior of Men) and the English “I (Christ) Have Suffered.”

## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

January 31, 2020

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 22,716.61
Thrivent	8,625.25
Checking	2,772.58
Youth	405.31
Fidelity	97,544.72
Cash Reserve	37,966.22
Mission Investment	11,461.12
Local Care	1,881.43
Total	<u>\$ 183,373.24</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **January 31, 2019** \$ 203,669.55

### January 2020 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

Income	Required	Actual	Difference
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,565.00	\$ 4,020.00	\$ (5,545.00)

*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

\$ 30,708.52 Funds Received to Offset Expenses

### WHAT IS FAITH?

“Sight is not faith, and hearing is not faith, neither is feeling faith; but believing when we neither see, hear nor feel is faith; and everywhere the Bible tells us our salvation is to be by faith. Therefore, we must believe before we feel, and often against our feelings, if we would honor God by our faith.”

– Hannah Whitall Smith



### BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**Donated Items in much need right now:** coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juices, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soup of all kinds (except chicken noodle and tomato), spaghetti sauce, beef stew, canned meat (such as tuna, chicken breast or Spam), Manwich or sloppy joe mix, chili, Chef Boyardee canned items (such as beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), Hamburger Helper, snacks of all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), flour, sugar, oatmeal, breakfast cereal, pancake syrup and mix, cooking oil, pasta or rice sides, ramen noodles, 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.**

Donations may be dropped off at New Jerusalem any time the church is open or at St. Peter’s during pantry hours cited above or call to arrange a convenient time. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. 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.**

### PADDLING THROUGH LENT – AND LIFE

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you’ve ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn’t a bad image for Lent – or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it’s no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we’re traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: “Jesus, set me straight again!” Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don’t get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!



– Adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*

## THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### March

*	1	10:00 AM	First Sunday in Lent (P) – Holy Communion ▪ Stewardship Committee meeting after worship
	4	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) ▪ Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
	8	10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Second Sunday in Lent (P) Faith Formation Event
	11	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) ▪ Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton
*	15	10:00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent (P)
	18	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) ▪ Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers
	22	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent (P)
	25	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) ▪ Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers
*	29	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent (P)

### April

	1	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) ▪ Christian Congregation, Mertztown
*	5	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday (P) – Holy Communion
	8	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service (P) ▪ St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown
	9	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday (P) – Holy Communion ▪ New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
	10	7:00 PM	Good Friday ▪ Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville
	12	10:00 AM	Easter Sunday (W) – Holy Communion
*	19	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Easter (W)
	26	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Easter (W)

### May

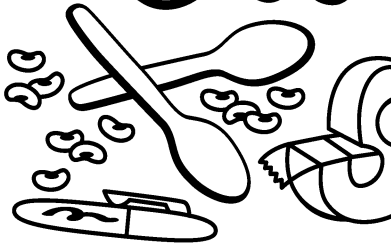
*	3	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Easter (W) – Holy Communion
■	10	10:00 AM	Fifth Sunday of Easter (W) ▪ Mother's Day Breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m.
	17	10:00 AM	Sixth Sunday of Easter (W)
*	24	10:00 AM	Seventh Sunday of Easter (W)
	31	10:00 AM	Day of Pentecost (R) – Holy Communion

#### FELLOWSHIP DATES:

- ( \* ) Fellowship after worship  
( ■ ) Breakfast before worship



## Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

### What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

### What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.



## MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

*Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.*



- |                             |                                      |         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| A type of horn              | ___ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> | MURTEP  |
| Played by King David        | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _     | PRHA    |
| Plucked to make sound       | _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ | IGSNSTR |
| Similar to a tambourine     | _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ | MRBELIT |
| A type of harp              | _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/>       | ELRY    |
| Blown through to make sound | _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _       | EPPI    |
| A percussion instrument     | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ | YBLACMS |

Le\_ everyt\_ing tha\_ has \_r\_ath  
\_raise the \_ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV



## MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
3/1	TBA	Cindy Rissmiller	Gladys Kline and Earl Derr	Gladys Kline
3/8	Gladys Kline	Ty Rissmiller	Dale Schwoyer	Tara Basta
3/15	TBA	Dawn Wengert	Lucille Jones	Lucille Jones
3/22	Josh Keck	Gladys Kline	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
3/29	TBA	Ken Keck	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Cheryl Wiltrout

**ALTAR GUILD:** *(volunteer needed)*

**CHILDREN'S BULLETINS:** Lucille Jones

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** Lucille Jones

**COMMUNION BREAD:** 3/1 – Gladys Kline

**COMMUNION SET-UP:** 3/1 – *(volunteer needed)*

**COUNCILPERSON:** Gladys Kline

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

# MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday in Lent ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Stewardship Meeting ▪ Dawn Baxter from WBMD	2	3 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	4 2:30-6:00pm-Threads for Others 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Christ Mertz, Dryville	5 10:00am-Bible Study	6 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	7
8 Second Sunday in Lent ▪ Baptism 12:00pm-Faith Formation  <b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</b>	9 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	10 4:30pm-Congregational Conversations, New Jerusalem 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir	11 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Trinity Lutheran, Topton	12	13 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Confirmation Retreat at Bear Creek Camp -->	14 ----->
15 Third Sunday in Lent ▪ Fellowship after worship  ----->	16 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal  <b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>	18 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 2:30-6:00pm-Threads for Others 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Christ DeLong, Bowers	19 10:00am-Bible Study  <b>SPRING BEGINS</b>	20 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	21 10:00am-12:00pm-Feed the Need Packing Project at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville  6:15pm-Farm Family Appreciation Celebration, Hamburg Field House
22 Fourth Sunday in Lent ▪ Confirmation Class	23 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	24 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-9:00pm-Spirit On Tap 7:30pm-Adult Choir	25 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Hope Lutheran, Bowers	26 10:00am-Bible Study	27 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	28 8:30am-2:30pm-NEPA Spring Justice Retreat, St. Paul's Lutheran, Breinigsville  4:00-7:00pm-Spaghetti Supper at NJ
29 Fifth Sunday in Lent ▪ Fellowship after worship 12:00pm-Faith Formation 6:00pm-Soul'd Out Quarter, St. Paul's Lutheran, Fleetwood	30 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	31 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal				

# SYNOD NEWS

**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA**

## **Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly 2020 “We Are Church Together”**



**INFORMATION SESSION LIVESTREAM via YouTube**

**With Bishop Samuel Zeiser**

**- Live from The Kalahari Resort -**

**Thursday, March 19 at 10:30 AM**

Join Bishop Zeiser and others on the 2020 Synod Assembly Planning Team, LIVE via YouTube Livestream from the Kalahari Resort. This Information Session will give you the latest details on:

- The election of a new Bishop
- Ministry table displays
- What will happen when
- The speakers, presenters and special guests
- Who should attend and why
- How to download and use the Guidebook app

This YouTube video stream will be available live at the date and time listed above; or you can view it anytime later, as a recording.

To watch it, either live or later: simply search this name on Google: “NEPS Assembly 2020 Info Session”, or type this into your internet browser: <https://youtu.be/RwZFsLahD34>.

For event details about Synod Assembly 2020, including to register and to book a room at Kalahari, you can visit the Assembly 2020 Event page at <http://nepasynod.org/event/assembly-2020>.

For all information needed for the Assembly itself (nomination forms, resolution forms, agenda, etc.), you can visit the Assembly 2020 Information page at <http://nepasynod.org/assembly2020-info>.

### **Festival Worship at the Assembly**

On Friday morning there will be a Eucharist with Bishop Zeiser preaching and music led by Bobby Siegfried. The offering will be for the World Hunger Appeal.

On Saturday morning there will be a Eucharist in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women. Dr. Catherine Ziel will preach, and music will be led by Deacon Tom Yenser and a brass quintet.



## Pianist becomes Organist at Trinity, Bangor



Before Easter our organist/music director resigned at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bangor, PA. We let it be known to the community through FB, emails and the synod newsletter that we needed an organist/music director. For a few weeks we had substitute organists with no choir director. The choir continued to practice, and we managed to do some *a capella* pieces for a few weeks. The choir improved dramatically, feeling determined to sing with much more focus and dedication.

Within weeks we had some inquiries from pianists and organists. We interviewed Ms. Bethann Kratzer. She is an excellent pianist, but she admitted that she didn't play the organ. She does play 8-10 other instruments. We hired her for the summer on a trial basis, since we do worship services during the summer in our air-conditioned fellowship hall and only use the piano for that worship.

In addition, we asked her if she was willing to take organ lessons from Dr. Michael Krentz over the summer. We offered to pay for 10 lessons and to continue paying for 1 lesson a quarter over the next year. She agreed to try. By the end of the summer she had "fallen in love" with the organ and is becoming an accomplished organist. She now plays the organ for worship in our sanctuary, works with our Sunday School children, leads the choir, and plays the piano when needed. We are thrilled with her willingness to try and learn the organ, her ability to work with the choir, and her outstanding piano playing. We have hired her as our full-time music director. She continues to take organ lessons on her own and learn the instrument.

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



## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE HAWK MOUNTAIN COUNCIL

Dear Scouting Community,

Today, the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to achieve two key objectives: equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come.

### **I want to highlight important points that are most relevant to the Hawk Mountain Council:**

- **The Hawk Mountain Council has not filed for bankruptcy.** Our Council is legally separate, distinct and financially independent from the national organization.
- **Scouting programs will continue.** This means that unit meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures and countless service projects will take place as usual. In short, we expect no changes to the local Scouting experience in the Berks and Schuylkill Counties and the Panther Valley School District (Carbon County).
- **Scouting is safer now than ever before.** Over many years we've developed some of the strongest expert-informed youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization. I can also assure you that our volunteers and employees take youth protection extremely seriously and do their part to help keep kids safe.
- **Restricted donations—past, present or future—can only be used for their designated purpose.** In addition, Friends of Scouting (FOS) and other annual donations made to our Council will continue to fund necessary day-to-day expenses that are critical to local Scouting programs.

While we do not anticipate the national organization's bankruptcy filing will have any direct impact on the local Scouting experience or your involvement with our Council, I understand you may still have questions about these issues and things you will see in the news. To that end, the national organization has established a dedicated restructuring website, [www.BSArestructuring.org](http://www.BSArestructuring.org).

This site includes a helpful Resources page, where you will find a short video explaining what Chapter 11 means for Scouting, as well as a FAQ. The site's Milestones page will be your best source for the latest updates throughout this process.

If you have any questions about local Scouting, you can always feel free to reach out directly to me or your usual contact within our Council.

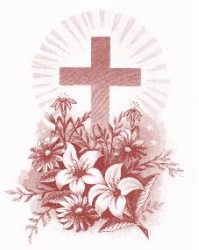
Through your engagement and dedication to Scouting, the Hawk Mountain Council will continue to bring adventures, values and lifelong benefits to youth and our communities for generations to come. Thank you for your trust and support as we continue this important mission.

Yours in Scouting,

Jim Milham | Scout Executive CEO

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
Hawk Mountain Council  
5027 Pottsville Pike  
Reading, PA 19605  
Office | 610-926-3406  
Cell | 484-507-3647  
[jim.milham@scouting.org](mailto:jim.milham@scouting.org)





# Easter Flower Order Form

	<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: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE #: \_\_\_\_\_

DEDICATIONS (*In Honor of, In Memory of, or To the Glory of God*):

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**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, March 29.**