

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

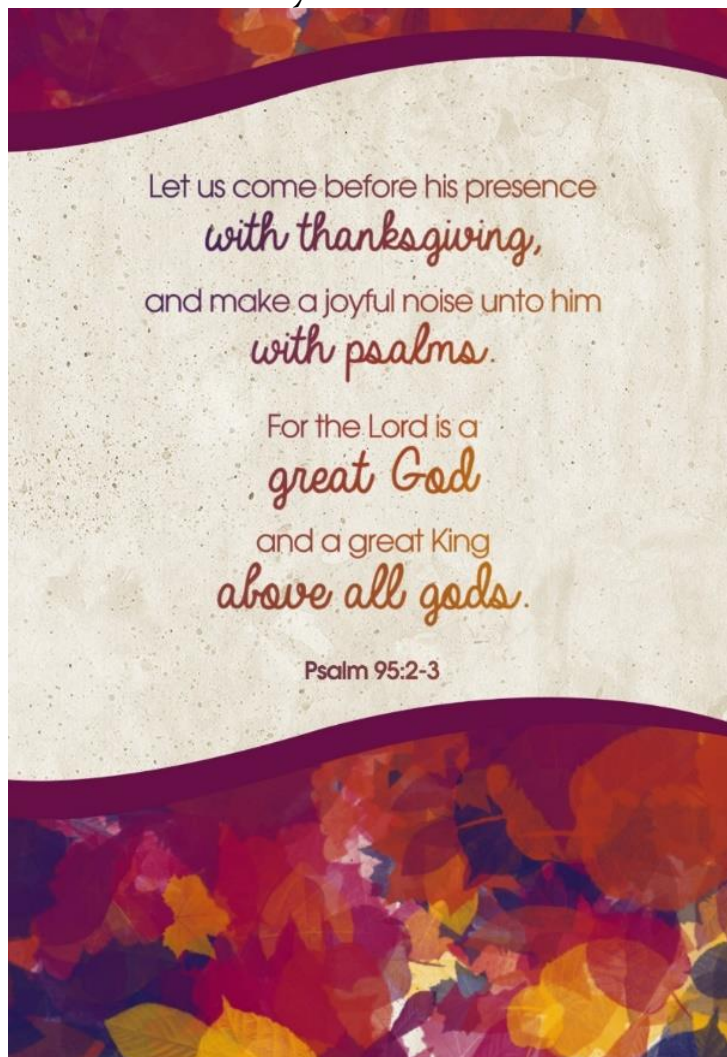
E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net

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.*



*All praise to thee, my God this night, for all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, Oh keep me, King of Kings, beneath thine own almighty wings.*

Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, ELW 565

Tune: Tallis Cannon, ("Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow")

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter November and the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, we become more aware of darkness and the blessings of the light. As little children many of us were afraid of the dark. Even as adults we often bemoan the coming of the night, whether that be literally nighttime, or a figurative way of speaking about death. This hymn reminds us that in life and death, it is God's delight to keep us beneath God's own almighty wings, just like a hen gathers her chicks when there is danger.

The church begins November with All Saints Sunday. It is a time to remember that whether we or our loved ones live or die, we are all kept beneath God's almighty, protective wings. At the end of the month as we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, we focus on how Christ is Lord of heaven and earth. This leads us to pray even more fervently that God's kingdom would come, and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Nighttime is time when many think about whether they have been a part of doing God's will. Sometimes we find it difficult to sleep. We think about what happened during the day: things we wish we did or did not do, things we wish we had done differently, hurts and fears. We worry about what is happening in the world. (When I ask our shut-ins what they would like to pray for, the most frequent answer is, "world peace".) With all these things on our minds, we long to be able to go to sleep in peace. The second verse of this hymn can be comforting at times like this:

*Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself and thee, I ere I sleep, at peace may be.*

November is the month when we celebrate Thanksgiving. Here is a song I learned in public school the fall when I was in second grade. Perhaps some of you learned it as well.

*Father, we thank thee for the night, and for the pleasant morning light;
for rest and food and loving care, and all that makes the day so fair.*

Rebecca Weston – 1890

It is appropriate at any time of the year or of our lives to say, "Father, we give you thanks! We give you thanks for the darkness as well as the light, for time to rest as well as time to be up and about, and 'for all that makes the world so fair'." It is also appropriate to ask, as in the second verse, that God would

*[h]elp us to do the things we should, to be to others kind and good;
in all we do, in work or play, to grow more loving every day.*

Isn't that a good summary of what Thanksgiving is all about for us: thanks for all that makes the world so fair and a prayer that God would help us "to grow more loving every day"?

My friends, I give thanks for you. You are part of what makes the world so fair. God bless our journeys into November.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at their October 8th meeting:

- The proposed 2019 Budget was presented by the Finance Committee.
- New Jerusalem will be hosting the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m.
- The Faith Formation committee is planning a Book Fair.
- The profit from the Fall Festival held on September 15th was \$879.09, which will be split equally between purchasing a Stove for Olchoki and the expense of repaving the parking lot.
- 864 pies were baked at the shoo-fly pie bake held on September 24-26, earning an estimated \$3,500 profit.

NOVEMBER SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of an Altar Guild volunteer for the month, and a Communion Bread sponsor as well as a Communion Set-up volunteer for November 25th.

NOVEMBER GREETERS SIGN-UP SHEET

A greeter is needed for Wednesday, November 21st (Thanksgiving Eve service, 7 p.m.). Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – November 4th

Join with living saints to remember and thank God for the many saints who touch and have touched our lives and to support those whose loved ones have died in this past year. Beth Angstadt, Edna Conrad, Dennis Guinther, Catherine Kriebel, Charles Sanders, Clifford Schlenker, Sallie Weil, and Patricia Youse will be named as a candle is lit on the altar. Each family present will be invited to light a candle for those whom they want to remember and thank. We also we be dedicating our new oil paschal candle in memory of Arlene Yob. Join us for worship and Holy Communion, the feast of victory for our God. Invite a friend to come with you.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

On **Sunday, November 4th**, daylight savings time ends. Don't forget to turn your clocks **back 1 hour** before going to bed Saturday night.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

There will be **NO** Bell Choir rehearsal on Tuesday, November 6th and 13th. Adult Choir will be held at **7:00 p.m.** those two Tuesdays. Rehearsals will resume as usual on Tuesday, November 20th.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – November 11th

Our Congregational Meeting to approve the 2019 Budget will be held on Sunday, November 11th immediately following the worship service. Pastor Mary Gade will be a guest speaker. There will be a catered luncheon following the meeting. We need 25 members to meet quorum. Please invite other members and be sure to join us.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES FOR FRIEND, INC.

There will be two food lists on the table in the narthex. Donations of food items are needed to create Thanksgiving holiday meals. **Your donations of food items are due to church by Sunday, November 11th.** Thank you for your help!

FAITH FORMATION EVENT

Join us on **Sunday, November 18th**, after our worship service for a Faith Formation event.

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by **Sunday, November 18th.**

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

The joint Thanksgiving Eve worship service with Holy Communion will be held on **Wednesday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m.** This year, New Jerusalem Lutheran Church will host the worship service with Christ Mertz, Dryville, Hope, Bowers, Christ DeLong, Bowers, and St. Peter's, Topton joining in this celebration. Join us as we thank God for his bountiful gifts! A fellowship will take place after the worship service.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 22nd**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Join us on **Friday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m.** to help get the church ready for Christmas.

SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE SALE

The last bake until the spring will be held **Monday, December 3rd to Wednesday, December 5th**. Please contact the church office if you would like to order any pies. Pies are \$5.00 each.

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE BOOK FAIR

Love to read? Love to pass on the gift of reading to children and grandchildren? Starting in November New Jerusalem will be hosting a book fair featuring books from Augsburg Fortress Publishing that can be ordered for A) children and preteens or B) adults.



Through an arrangement with our national church's publishing house, our congregation gets to keep the books that will be displayed. If members and friends order over \$200 worth of books from set A and/or B, shipping for the books from that (those) set(s) will be free and the congregation gets to keep 20% of the sales.

Check them out in the overflow area. Tell your friends.

Speaking of books, Chaplain Kristula from The Lutheran Home at Topton has sent us this information: **WANTED: NEW OR GENTLY USED BIBLES** for residents of the Henry Infirmary and Breidegam Center. Large print Bibles are especially welcome. Bibles can be delivered directly to the home or brought to church.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for the first half of 2019 have been ordered and should be arriving in your mailbox the first week of December. If for some reason you have not received yours, please contact the church office and Korinne will get you an extra booklet.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH – A JOYOUS CELEBRATION

On Thursday, October 18, members of New Jerusalem served supper for the Festival of Faith held at Bern Lutheran Church, Bernville, every third Thursday of the month. It was so uplifting to watch this group of folks with varying abilities and their caregivers greet one another, enjoy a meal together, celebrate birthdays, sing, and worship God, etc! There were over 40 present.

Stewardship Committee had decided to serve the hamburgers we had left from our Fall Festival. You would have thought we had brought filet mignon! People were so excited to be able to have their burgers "their way", be that with or without cheese, catsup, mustard, etc.

Our thanks to the many people who make this ministry possible each month. If you'd like to learn more, speak to Pastor Ruth. They can always use help in serving as well as interacting with those who come.

OCTOBER VISIT TO KENESETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

On Friday, October 12, members of New Jerusalem joined with the congregation of Keneseth Israel in Allentown for a lively and joyous Shabbat (Sabbath) service. We were welcomed with a short introduction to Judaism and the congregation's worship pattern, then joined in lively and joyous worship, including a meditation on Noah and the flood. (Have you ever sung "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in worship before?) The Faith Formation Committee hopes to plan another trip at a time when those who missed this opportunity can go.

A VETERANS DAY PRAYER

God of all nations you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country. We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY CONCERT: REQUIEM BY NEIL HARMON and other anthems offered by the choir and orchestra of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. **November 4, 4:00 p.m.** 3461 South Cedar Crest Blvd., Emmaus (just north of Emmaus High School.)

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main Street, Kutztown. On **Tuesday, November 13th** Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood, Charles D Couch Chair of Moravian Theology, will present *The Inklings: Faith and Fantasy in an English Pub*. The Inklings is a group of English writers and scholars who met regularly at the Eagle and Child Pub in Oxford to discuss literature, philosophy, God, and modern life. The most famous of the Inklings were C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien. Food and drink are available for purchase.

VOLUNTEER READING TUTORS NEEDED FOR READY.SET.READ! PROGRAM

Help make a difference in a child's life! Volunteers are needed to tutor 2nd grade students who are struggling with reading at Oley Valley Elementary school on Thursdays from 10:30-11:15 a.m. No previous teaching experience is required. This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering weekly for one hour. Current background clearances are required prior to assignment. Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way at 610-685-4574 or darbyw@uwberks.org.



WHO BREWS THE COFFEE?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee." The husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here and you should do it, because it is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."



The wife replied, "No you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." The husband said, "I can't believe that, show me."

So she fetched her Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says. . . . "Hebrews."

During worship for most of November our second lesson will continue to be excerpts from the Letter to the Hebrews, to a group who believed that Jesus is truly the Messiah. Join us as we discover other "truths" it contains.

Did You Know?

SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The sun is often used as a symbol for Christ, especially during church-year seasons that use prophetic imagery and focus on Jesus' second coming. Malachi 4:2 – "But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings" (ESV) – is echoed in the Christmas hymn "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing": Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.



"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."

—Calvin Coolidge

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts
September 30, 2018**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 21,274.60
Thrivent	7,864.87
Checking	8,976.14
Youth	404.66
Fidelity	136,742.26
Cash Reserve	12,829.08
Mission Investment	11,330.00
Local Care	<u>1,288.75</u>
Total	\$ <u>200,710.36</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **September 30, 2017** \$ 200,596.30

September 2018 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’
Income

	<u>Income Required</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,779.58	\$ 8,413.33 *	\$ (366.25)

* Actual Income Includes: \$3,500.00 ESTIMATED INCOME from Shoo-fly Pie Bake

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2018 Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

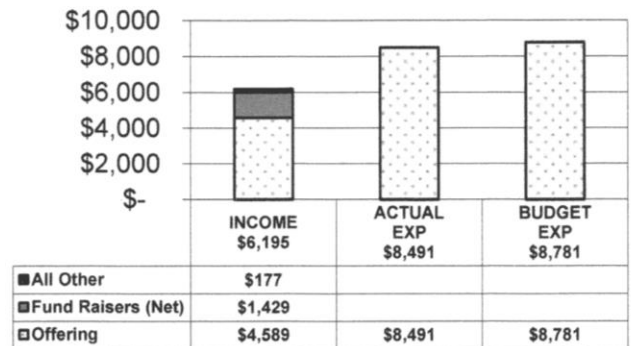
Parking Lot – Funds received to offset expenses for Driveway/Parking Lot Repaving

\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Project
\$ 20,598.00 Funds Received to offset expenses


**DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE!**

ELECTION DAY – Tuesday, November 6, 2018

**SEPTEMBER 2018 YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME AND EXPENSE**



MONTHLY AVERAGE

**CALENDAR YEAR 2018 INFORMATION
NORMAL OPERATIONS
(DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)**

**INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY
SEPTEMBER 2018 YEAR-TO-DATE**

	<u>Sep Y-T-D</u>	<u>Average Month</u>
Income		
Offering	\$ 41,305	\$ 4,589
Fund Raisers	\$ 12,864	1,429
Other	\$ 1,595	177
Total Income	\$ 55,764	6,195
Actual Exp	\$ 76,420	8,491
Budget Exp	\$ 79,028	8,781
Shortage *	\$ (23,264)	(2,585)

*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2018 BUDGET Expense Less Benevolence & Major Repairs/Purchases


Bible Quiz

How did Jesus heal the blind man at the pool of Siloam?

- Put mud on his eyes and told him to go wash in the pool.
- Laid his hands on the man's head and prayed.
- Touched his eyes, but at first the man said people looked like trees walking, so Jesus had to do it again.
- Told him to go to the priests; as the man went, he was healed.



Answer: A (See John 9:6-7.)

STEWARDSHIP AND GRATITUDE

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. – Psalm 9:1

Gratitude is the attitude, the key that can unlock the doors of our lives to more joy, satisfaction, contentment, love and peace. Gratitude undergirds everything we do as disciples of Christ and stewards of the gifts with which God entrusts us. Are these bold claims? Yes! Are they true? Without a doubt!

Blame it on our consumer culture that constantly implores us to buy more, or simply blame it on human nature, but many of us focus way too much on our unfilled desires, our unmet wants. Whether it's a fancier car, a bigger house, whiter teeth, more friends, a fatter paycheck or skinnier body, our wants can overwhelm and define us if we're not careful. Want and desire can blind us to the blessings we already have in this wonderful life that God has given us.

What's the cure? Gratitude! It's an attitude that can be developed through prayer and practice. And since we are gearing up for Thanksgiving on November 22, why not make it a month-long effort?

Start by making a list of things for which you are thankful today. (If you have a smartphone that enables you to take notes, use it. A small pad or index card will also do.) Include *at least* 20 items on the list.

Carry the list with you and pray over it several times a day, saying, "I thank God for *this*. I thank God for *that*," and so on. Make it a working project, adding to the list as you think of new blessings or reordering them in priority.

As the weeks unfold, see if you won't develop an attitude of gratitude for the things you already have and a deep satisfaction and peace for your life. Gratitude unlocks our lives to the abundance that God intends for us.

—Rob Blezard

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IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care

Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Samuel Behm, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Audrey Hoffman, Leon Moyer, Irene Noll, and Joyce Rothermel.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Members: Glenn Allen, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, Erma Guinther, Amanda Herman, John Keck, Sheila Long, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Horace Rothermel, and Dale Schwoyer

Friends of the congregation: Regina B., Thelma Bright, Corina Brown, Bill Collins, Evelyn Collins, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Barbara Feeman, Eric Fox, Lorelai Gold, Corinne Hersh, David Jenkins, Angie Kistler, Joe Klick, Anh La, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Michelle Meck, Nancy Meck, George Noll, Kyle Olinger, Tonya Petersheim, Monica R., Jackson Radcliffe, Mary Lynne Rathman, Ronald Reimert, Leilani Rodriquez, Jeffrey Schloder, Rayjeana Schultz, Jerry Schwambach, Ruth Tabekilis, Baby Leah Wiest, and Dennis Wright

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: For our nation. For our president, congress and judicial system. For peace in the world and between citizens and those who serve them. For our military personnel serving around the world, for areas enduring drought, storms, flooding and other disasters, for migrants and refugees and the countries to which they flee.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Myles Angstadt, Millie Berger, Mike Denby, Alice Epler, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Denise Haage, Tara K., Janis Kershner, Lauren Kinney, Ethan Kunkel, Michael M., Joanne Pauley, Arlene Reider, Andrew S., Joshua S., Ruby Grace Shoff, Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Tiffany W., Jackie Wagner, and Rachel Woodhead.

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough."

—Oprah Winfrey



- 1 Janet Kepnach
- 1 Diana Moyer
- 6 Stacey Beshore
- 6 Justin Moyer
- 8 Lucas Beshore
- 10 Irene Noll
- 11 Cheryl Wilttrout
- 12 Lisa Landis
- 16 Barbara Fair
- 19 Linwood Merkel
- 24 Carolyn Dise
- 25 Emily Jones
- 25 Horace Rothermel
- 27 Jeff Wengert
- 28 Baylee Cleaver



- 9 Daniel & Kathy Bailey (16 years)
- 18 Joseph & Janet Kepnach (22 years)
- 25 Ty & Cindy Rissmiller (29 years)
- 28 Horace & Joyce Rothermel (59 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. Thank you.

THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November

* 4	10:00 AM	All Saints' Sunday – Holy Communion (W)
◆ 11	10:00 AM	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost (G) ▪ Congregational Meeting after worship ▪ Luncheon after Congregational Meeting
* 18	10:00 AM	Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost (G) ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
* 21	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service – Holy Communion (G) ▪ Held at New Jerusalem Lutheran
25	10:00 AM	Christ the King Sunday – Holy Communion (G)

December

* 2	10:00 AM	First Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion (B)
9	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Advent (B)
* 16	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Advent (B) ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
23	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
* 24	5:00 PM & 9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Services – Holy Communion (W)
30	10:00 AM	First Sunday after Christmas (W)

January

6	10:00 AM	Epiphany of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
13	10:00 AM	Baptism of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W)
20	10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany (G)
27	10:00 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany (G)

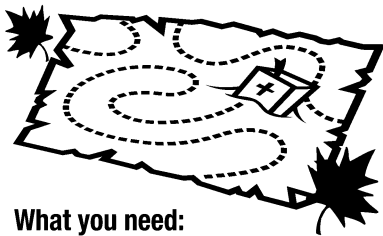
FELLOWSHIP DATES:

- (*) Fellowship after worship
(◆) Luncheon after meeting



FALL SCAVENGER HUNT

Enjoy searching for seasonal aspects of God's creation!



What you need:

- Family members and friends, divided into groups if desired
- Maps of local areas
- Lists of fall-related items (one per person or group)
- Digital cameras or smartphones
- Prizes

What you do:

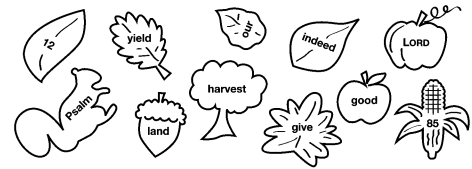
1. Hand out maps and lists of items (scarecrow, pumpkin, red leaf, squirrel, apple tree, pine cone, acorn, bug, bird, sunflower, etc.)
2. Instruct participants to walk through their assigned area, find and take photos of the items, and report back at a specific time.
3. When everyone returns, share your photos. Award prizes for the most items found, the most unusual item and so on.

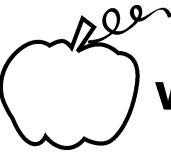

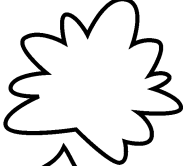



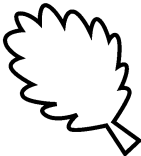


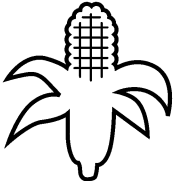
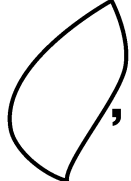


HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.



“The  will  
 what is , and 
 will  its .”
  : , NIV

Answer: “The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.” Psalm 85:12, NIV

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
11/4	Sue Schlenker	Ken Keck	Lisa Landis	Don and Erma Gajewski
11/11	Phyllis Fenstermacher	Ty Rissmiller	Don and Erma Gajewski	Dale Schwoyer
11/18	Elaine Seip	Cindy Rissmiller	Sue Schlenker	Sue Schlenker
11/21 Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 p.m.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
11/25	Josh Keck	Sara Jane Beshore	Faye and Larry Dey	Cheryl Wilttrout

ALTAR GUILD: *(volunteer needed)*

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Virginia Guinther

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Cheryl Wilttrout



COMMUNION BREAD: 11/4 – Gladys Kline; 11/21 (7:00 PM) – Faye Dey; 11/25 – *(sponsor needed)*

COMMUNION SET-UP: 11/4 – Faye Dey; 11/21 (7:00 PM) – Faye Dey; 11/25 – *(volunteer needed)*

COUNCILPERSONS: Cheryl Wilttrout and Elaine Seip

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

NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 All Saints' Sunday ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship Daylight Savings Time Ends	5 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	6 7:00pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal Bishop's Conference →	7 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. -----→	8 -----→	9 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	10
11 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Stewardship Sunday ▪ Congregational Meeting after worship ▪ Luncheon following Congregational Meeting	12 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting VETERAN'S DAY (observed)	13 7:00pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	14 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	15	16 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17
18 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship 	19 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	20 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	21 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon, Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Thanksgiving Eve Service, New Jerusalem Lutheran ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship	22  OFFICE CLOSED	23 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	24
25 Christ the King Sunday ▪ Holy Communion	26 10:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	27 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	28 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29	30 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 6:00pm-Christmas Decorating	

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Monthly Mailing to Be Sent Using Email

In an effort to be more faithful stewards both of the synod's financial resources and of the earth God has entrusted to our care, the synod "Monthly Mailing" will no longer be reproduced on paper and mailed through the post office.

Beginning with the January 2019 mailing, materials will be emailed to each congregation and also posted for download on the synod website.

For this to work, it is important that each congregation have a current email on file with the synod office. If your congregation is not receiving the weekly E-News (sent out on Tuesday mornings), it is probably best if you contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com with the email you wish to use for the monthly materials.

If your congregation does not use email, please recruit a member who does have an email address to receive your materials, and forward that address to the synod.

The synod recognizes that it may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this transition. If you have any questions about what you need to do, please contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com or 610-266-5101.

Living into Common Mission



St. John Lutheran Church and Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal) in Sayre enjoyed the fruits of its partnership this summer in at least two ways: sending 10 youth from both parishes to the Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston, and worshipping together for the summer months. Both experiences have enriched the relationships between the two parishes.

Some years ago, the two parishes began discussions about sharing clergy with the Synod and Diocese. Early in 2017 an Episcopal priest was called to serve both parishes, bringing a full time presence to each at a part-time cost. Building on a successful youth program at Redeemer, the youth of both parishes combined to form a single youth group.

In December, the group decided to attend the LYG; and in less than six months they raised sufficient funds to send to Houston all ten eligible youth and four adult companions, including the pastor. As far as it is known, this was the only interdenominational youth group in attendance! And the youth found that for them, the Youth Event motto "this changes everything" was in fact true.

Because of construction projects at each site, the two parishes worshipped together during the summer months, alternating between Lutheran Worship and the Book of Common Prayer from week to week. Majorities of both congregations attended services, regardless of where the service was held. Both memberships remarked on how nice it was to worship in a full church and how much they appreciated the opportunity to get to know one another better.

A Year Long Celebration of Serving

For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works. (Ephesian 2:10)



At St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Rally Day is more than the kick-off to Sunday School. It is an introduction to a year-long focus not only for Sunday School, but for the entire congregation. The ELCA theme, "God's Work Our Hands" was selected by the Parish Education Committee to celebrate the talents which we have been given by God to serve our community and the world.

To introduce the theme, the children were asked to bring cans of food to donate to a local food pantry, make first aid kits, and sing songs about being a helping hand.

Hand prints listing community service ideas were hung on the church walls to encourage young and old to offer their gifts to others. Located around the church are specific "God's Work Our Hands" crosses. St. John's members place a "hand" sticker on one of the crosses when they have used their hands to do God's work. As the crosses fill up with hands this year, they will serve as a way to celebrate all the good work being done by one church in Berks County, collectively using unique God-given gifts to make a difference in the world.



More Stories from God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday



Faith, Mount Penn

Several other stories about God's Work. Our Hands. community outreach projects are posted on the synod website (<http://nepasynod.org/events/stories-gwoh-sunday>). If your congregation participated in one, send a short story with one or more photos to georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com.

As you can see from the article above, these projects can take place throughout the year!



Good Shepherd, Reading

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