

## THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

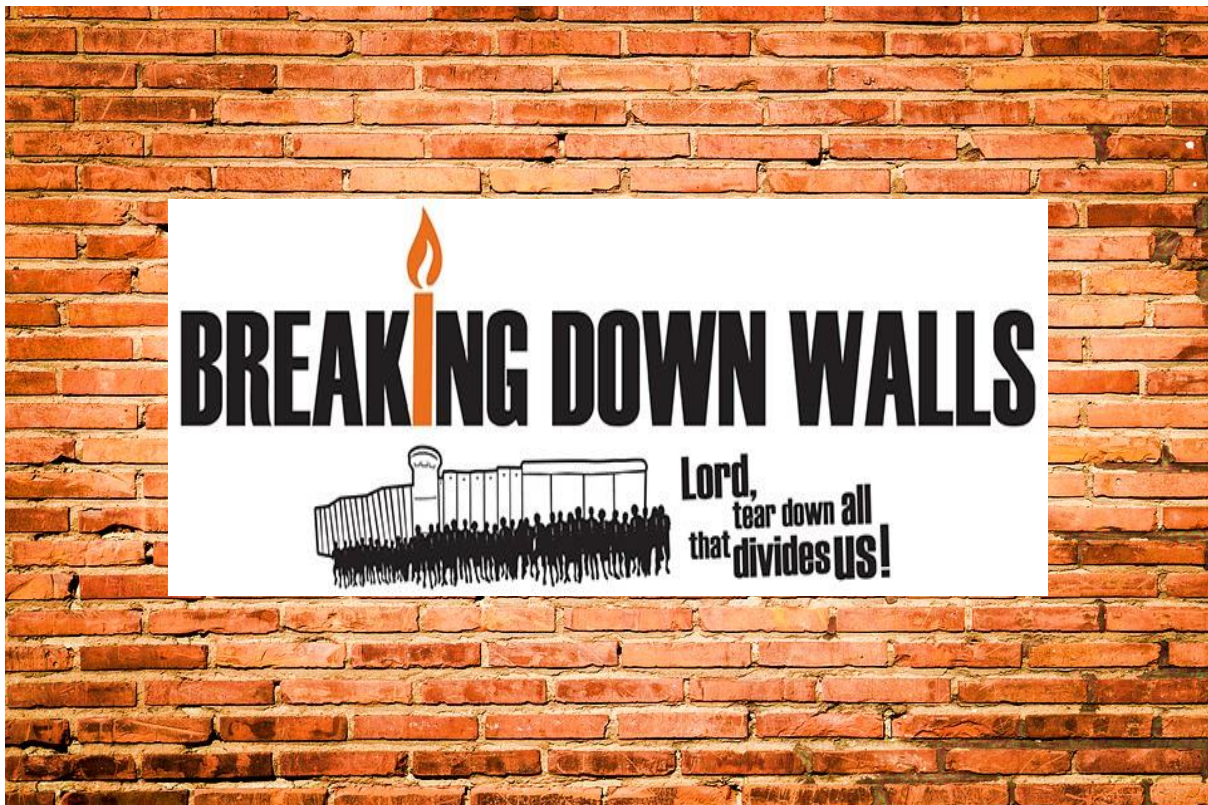
Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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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.*



*And the walls came a tumblin' down!*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.  
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumblin' down.*

This peppy spiritual refers to the story of when the children of Israel entered the Promised Land and began to occupy it. The city of Jericho was one of the first cities that they came to. God told Joshua (Moses' successor) that God was giving them Jericho but they were not to just charge it. It was heavily fortified. Its walls were very strong. No, they were not just to charge in because then they would think that they had conquered it. Instead they were to follow God's instructions. For six days the warriors were to march around the city once. On the seventh day they were to march around seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets. When they finished, the priests were to give a long blast on the trumpet and all the people were to shout with a great noise. They did this, and the walls of the city fell down flat. Just like that!

On November 9<sup>th</sup> the world will commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. After decades of separation between East and West Germany, this event signified newfound freedoms for the people of East Germany and a reversal from years of division between East and West Germany caused by the wall and an oppressive regime. This time the fall of the wall did not happen because of trumpets and shouts. (Those came afterward, as sounds of jubilation.) Once again, however, God was definitely involved. The lead up to the fall involved brave people engaged in prayer and carrying candles. You can read more about it farther down.

As we celebrate the Peaceful Revolution in Germany and its Lutheran roots, let us pray for and advocate on behalf of those divided and oppressed by other walls. Let us hold in prayer the people of Palestine, those on the U.S.-Mexico border, and all places where we build barriers, in our communities and in our hearts.

Some of us experience walls in our hearts and between members of our families. Some do not look forward to holiday dinners because they may encounter people with whom they feel very uncomfortable. Some fear that certain topics such as politics might be brought up, things about which people may hold strong opposing opinions. Some have been hurt by another person and find that the only way to survive an encounter is to emotionally hold that person at a distance.

Galatians 3:28 reminds us that in Christ all that separates and divides us no longer holds sway over us. All are made one in Christ. Experiencing oneness does not happen magically, nor should we necessarily just take a wrecking ball approach to whatever barriers we encounter. Some walls are needed temporarily for safety. It took time for the walls of Jericho to come down and they didn't come down because of a battering ram. It took time and lots of prayer, planning and discussion for the Berlin wall to fall. Yet, as each of us encounters our need for forgiveness and experiences God's gracious response, we may come to see whomever we wall out as a sibling, a fellow child of God, also beloved and forgiven, and God may help break down whatever divides us.

Let us join together in proclaiming the truth that we are one human family. Just as tens of thousands of people gathered in nonviolent protest in the streets of Leipzig, Germany, in the Peaceful Revolution of 1989, so, too, we are called in this moment to advocate for an end to division and oppression in our own families, our communities, our nation and throughout the world.

*Pastor Ruth*

# NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our council meetings on October 14 and 20.

- Council continued its discussion of *The Invitational Christian*.
- The Finance Committee presented the Proposed 2020 Budget to council members. This was approved by Council.
- Motions were made and approved authorizing Finance to use \$5,000 from the Fidelity Account to pay expenses for the rest of 2019, and \$50,000 from the Fidelity Account to use for expenses beginning January 2020.
- Council approved the purchase of an artificial Christmas tree to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas this year and the years to come.

**PASTOR RUTH** will be on vacation from Monday, November 25, until Monday, December 2. If you would need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Althea Albright at 484.345.0399.

## NOVEMBER SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of a Bulletin sponsor for November 17, a Communion Bread sponsor and Communion Set-up volunteer for November 10–Stewardship Sunday, and an Altar Guild volunteer. A Greeter is needed for November 24. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex if you can help. Thank you!

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

On **Sunday, November 3**, daylight savings time ends. Don't forget to turn your clocks *back 1 hour* before going to bed Saturday night.

## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – November 3

Join with living saints to remember and thank God for the newly baptized and the many saints who touch and have touched our lives and to support those whose loved ones have died in this past year. Samuel Behm, Tammy Hahn, Timothy Hahn, Audrey Hoffman, John Keck, and Betty Stump 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. Join us for worship and Holy Communion.

**2019 SCOUTING FOR FOOD** – The Boy Scouts from Troop 585 will be collecting food donations on **Sunday, November 3**. All food collected will be donated to the Brandywine Food Pantry.

## BISHOP'S CONFERENCE – November 5-6

Held at the Shawnee Inn & Resort, the topic for this year is "Letting Go of Certainty to Survive" presented by Dr. Peter Enns. Pastor Ruth will be attending.

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – November 10

Our Congregational Meeting to approve the 2020 Budget will be held on Sunday, November 10, immediately following the worship service. We need 25 members to have a quorum. Bishop Samuel Zeiser will be preaching. There will be a catered luncheon following the meeting. Please invite other members to join us.

## FAITH FORMATION EVENT – November 17

Bring a lunch to enjoy as we engage a Bible story beginning at 12 noon. Be sure to mark your calendar for our next Faith Formation event on December 8 starting at noon.

## DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the December 2019 newsletter is **Sunday, November 17**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

## BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study on **Thursdays, October 31, and November 14 at 10:00 a.m.**

## THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

The joint Thanksgiving Eve worship service with Holy Communion will be held on **Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m.** This year, Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers, will host the worship service, with Christ Mertz, Hope, St. Peter's, and New Jerusalem joining in this celebration. Join us as we thank God for his bountiful gifts!

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 28**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Representatives of area churches continue the exciting work on developing ways we can cooperate in mission. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 19, at 5 p.m.** at **Trinity, Tipton**. Let Pastor Ruth know if you are interested in being part of these exciting discussions.

At its October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting discussion included:

- better ways to publicize what is happening at each congregation;
- identifying worship resources used in each congregation with the possibility of using some in common;
- continuing to make plans for a community meal;
- developing an action group to plan joint musical events.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

New Jerusalem will be having one Christmas Eve worship service this year. The service will start at 7:00 p.m. with pre-service music beginning at 6:45 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 6, starting at 6:00 p.m.** to help get our church ready for Christmas. More details in December's newsletter.

## SCARVES FOR SEAFARERS

The patterns to make scarves for the seafarer's has changed. You can pick up a new pattern on the table in the narthex. If you have any scarves completed using the old pattern, they are still accepting those. Please get whatever you have finished to the office by December 1.

## NEW JERUSALEM OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for the first half of 2020 have been ordered and should be arriving in your mailbox the first week of December. At the October 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, council members approved a couple of changes to the envelope. **Benevolence** will be listed first and **Current Expenses and Repairs & Maintenance** will be listed on the same line. If you do not receive your envelope by the middle of December, please contact the church office. Thank you!

## OVER 50 ATTEND BREAKFAST FOR LYONS FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Thank you to those who helped to serve on October 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a great opportunity to get to know and show our appreciation to those who help to keep us safe.

## A MESSAGE FROM DEACON MARLANE DRUCKENMILLER

Greetings All,

Last Thursday and Friday I took some time to do volunteer work at the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor, MD. I delivered 100 health kits and 28 quilts from EBMD

congregations. When I arrived they told me they were especially grateful for the health kits as a large shipment when out to disaster areas last week and their supply is now very low. Cleanup Buckets are ready to be shipped, but the time to send them is not yet. At this moment the warehouse has a good supply of them. Pastor Bruce and Linda (a member of Zion, Perry) worked with me on Thursday. We prepared 73 cases of Personal Care Kits, School Kits, and Baby Kits for shipment which totaled 4,112 lbs. On Friday I worked with Melissa (who came with St. Luke, Reading folks). We completed 39 cases with a total of 2,252 lbs. The staff on Thursday were at the train station unloading a box car of donations and bringing them to the Warehouse for final processing. Volunteers are needed all the time to keep the cycle of donations, processing and shipment going and ready for the next disaster. I hope to return in Spring to do more work in the New Windsor warehouse.



Peace, *Marlane Druckenmiller*

*The picture above is the warehouse where we send our quilts.*

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## A MUCH-NEEDED MESSAGE

National Bible Week, now observed every Thanksgiving week, got its start on a turbulent day. Founders of the National Bible Association were reading Scripture over the NBC radio network on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Because of the traumatic events, the network asked that the Bible-reading continue all day, in between news updates. Radio stations throughout America picked up the programming, allowing countless listeners to receive words from God—"who comforts you" (Isaiah 51:12)—when they needed it most.



**OF CANDLES AND PRAYER**  
**The Beginning of the Peaceful Revolution**  
**Leipzig, East Germany, October 9, 1989**

Mentioning *Leipzig* might lead you to believe that this article will be about J S Bach. It *was* in this city that the vast majority of his music was composed and first performed. Bach used the words “Dona nobis pacem,” at the end of his Mass in B Minor. Perhaps he was inspired by the angel of peace that was above the altar in the Nikolaikirche.

In the early 1980s, over 30 years into the rule of communism in East Germany (GDR), the only place where people could discuss and reflect on the arms race and other issues was at meetings held within churches. Young people started attending prayer services. One youth group decided to make discussion of political issues and prayers for peace a regular Monday evening event at the Lutheran Nikolaikirche.

Eventually these prayer services were led by peace groups comprised of former “Bausoldaten” (people who rendered their compulsory military service by serving in special, unarmed units), environmental activists, and people interested in third world issues. Together they sought to stir the public’s conscience and encourage action. Since these grass roots groups had different objectives it was not always easy to maintain a pastoral atmosphere. Still, by working together the participants were able to discover how the message of the Bible, especially the prophetic texts from the Old Testament and Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, was very pertinent to the issues they faced. Critics of the regime and Stasi personnel (State Security Police), Christians and non-Christians, gathered beneath the outspread arms of the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ.

From May 8, 1989, the access roads to the Nikolaikirche were blocked by the police. Monday after Monday there were arrests or “temporary detentions” in connection with the peace prayers. Despite these ominous actions, the number of visitors flocking to the church continued to grow to a point where the 2,000 seats were no longer sufficient. Then came October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Two days earlier the country had observed the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). That observation was far from peaceful. For 10 long hours uniformed police battered defenseless people who made no attempt to fight back. Hundreds of the protestors were locked up in the stables and an article was published in the press

saying that it was high time to put an end to “counter-revolution, if needs be by armed force.” That is how things looked on the morning of October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Soldiers, industrial militia, police and plain-clothes officers made a show of force in Leipzig that day. 1,000 SED (Communist) party members were ordered to go to the Nikolaikirche. Apparently no one in authority had thought about the fact that by going to the church these persons would be exposed to the word, the gospel and its impact!

Despite what was meant to be an intimidating presence of political and military might, the prayers for peace took place in what is described as unbelievable calm and concentration. Shortly before the bishop gave his final blessing, the chief conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra and others appealed for non-violence. For the people of Leipzig, this solidarity between church, art, music and the gospel in such a threatening situation was important.

As the more than 2,000 persons came out of the church that night they were met by the sight of tens of thousands who were waiting outside in the Square, tens of thousands of people with candles in their hands. Why were the candles so significant? If you carry a candle, you need two hands in order to keep the candle from going out. You cannot hold a stone, or a club or a gun.

Some termed what happened next, or, more accurately, what did not happen, a miracle. Jesus’ spirit of non-violence prevailed. The troops, industrial militia groups and police were drawn in and became engaged in conversations. They then withdrew. There were no victors or vanquished, no one triumphed over the other, no one lost face. Not one shop window was broken. There was just a tremendous feeling of relief.

The non-violent movement which spread across the country lasted only a few weeks, but it caused the party and ideological dictatorship to collapse. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Berlin Wall fell.

Shortly before his death a member of the Central committee of the GDR, Sindermann, said. “We had planned everything. We were prepared for everything. But not for candles and prayers.”

*“You will succeed, not by military might or by your own strength, but by my spirit, says the Lord.” – Zechariah 4:6.*

*Excerpts taken from “St. Nicholas at Leipzig,” distributed at the Nikolaikirche.*

# NEWS & EVENTS

## in the Community

### **BIBLE STUDY AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MERTZTOWN – Held each Wednesday Evening at 6:00 p.m.**

Join Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman, members of St. Paul's, and others as they study the minor prophets of the Old Testament (the books beginning with Hosea).

### **LONGSWAMP UCC PA DUTCH BAZAAR**

Join members of Longswamp UCC, Mertztown, on **Saturday, November 9, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** for homemade soup, barbecue, chow-chow, pickled beets, baked goods, apple dumplings, vendors/crafters and much more!

### **ANNUAL CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR**

The Brandywine Community Library is holding their Annual Craft and Vendor Fair with a Basket Raffle on **Saturday, November 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Henry Auditorium of the Lutheran Home. There will be local crafters, vendors, and food for sale. Themed baskets to be raffled off at 1:30 p.m. Proceeds help the library fund future programs and add items for you to borrow.

### **2019 BERKS COUNTY VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DINNER DANCE**

Held on **Saturday, November 9, from 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.** in the Wilson High School Gymnasium, West Lawn. Contact Dale Schwoyer at 610.944.7151 to purchase tickets. Tickets are \$15.00. For more information, call the Berks County Veterans Appreciation Committee at 610.378.5601, option 0.

### **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 **November 19, 2019 – Coping with the Holidays.** 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.

### **HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

The Reading Choral Society (RCS) presents "Handel's Messiah" under the direction of Dr. Graham Bier on **Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.** at Muhlenberg High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$10 for students. To purchase tickets contact RCS at 610.898.1939. For more information check out [www.readingchoral.org](http://www.readingchoral.org).



### **POP TAB CHALLENGE**

The Thrivent Member Network is partnering with the Ronald McDonald House Charities for Thrivent's Giving Tuesday initiative. They are challenging churches throughout our region to help reach their goal of collecting 10 million pop tabs. The churches that collect the most pop tabs during the challenge will receive a celebration luncheon. Every time you open up a soft drink or soup, or even pet food, save the tabs to drop in the big red collection box on the table in the narthex. Those tiny little tabs can make a BIG impact on the families at Ronald McDonald House. We will be collecting them throughout the months of October and November. **So help us support the Pop Tab Collection Challenge and make an impact ... Start Collecting Today!**

## Did You Know?

### **ALPHA & OMEGA**

Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. As John of Patmos greets the seven churches in Asia, he writes: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty'" (Revelation 1:8, NIV). "The Alpha and the Omega" is a metaphor that points to God's eternal nature.



IN OUR  
Thoughts and Prayers

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

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

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT**

**Members:** Myles Angstadt, Kathy Bailey, Dallas Bennecoff, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Penny Keller, Phillip Litschke, Sheila Long, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Joanne Pauley, Joyce Rothermel, Sue Schlenker, Dawn Wartzluft, and Cheryl Wiltrout.

**Friends of the congregation:** Henry Aulenbach, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Carson Bosma, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Bill Collins, Earl Derr, Mark Derr, Reece Dillon, Randy Dreibelbis, Jennifer Engle, Eric Fox, Family and friends of Phyllis Graeff, Ivan Gromling, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Corinne Hersh, Johnson-Agiri Family, Sue Kerny, Angie Kistler, Cayden Kresge, Anh La, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Phillip and Nancy Meck, Rodney Muthard, Duane Peterschein, Ruth Ramsey, Leticia Weaver, Diane Whitehead, Althea Young, Pat, and Serita.

**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.

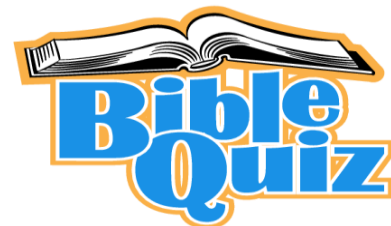
**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Millie Berger, Sandy Burkart, Evelyn Collins Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, David Jenkins, Janis Kershner, Michael M., Michelle Meck, Tonya Peterschein, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, Jacqi Wagner, and Leah Wiest.



- 1 Diana Moyer
- 6 Stacey Beshore
- 6 Justin Moyer
- 8 Lucas Beshore
- 10 Irene Noll
- 11 Cheryl Wiltrout
- 12 Lisa Landis
- 19 Linwood Merkel
- 23 Gary Alexander Lambert
- 24 Carolyn Dise
- 25 Horace Rothermel
- 25 Emily Jones
- 27 Jeff Wengert
- 28 Baylee Cleaver



- 9 Daniel and Kathy Bailey (17 years)
- 25 Ty and Cindy Rissmiller (30 years)
- 28 Horace and Joyce Rothermel (60 years)



Complete the first of Jesus' "beatitudes" correctly:  
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for ..."

- A. they shall be comforted.
- B. theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- C. they shall inherit the earth.
- D. they shall see God.



Answer: B (See Matthew 5:3.)



**ELECTION DAY**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

## THE BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP!

With the holidays approaching, the food pantry is in need of a lot more donations. Besides food donations, monetary contributions are also greatly appreciated. You can include your contribution in your regular Sunday offering indicating “Brandywine Food Pantry” on your envelope or you can mail in your donation to New Jerusalem Lutheran Church and we will forward it to them. Or, you can make out a check to “**Brandywine Food Pantry,**” and mail it to **Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 122 W. Franklin St., Tipton, PA, 19562.**

### DONATED ITEMS NEEDED RIGHT NOW:

coffee, fruit juices, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soups of all kinds, spaghetti sauce, beef stew, canned meat, such as: tuna, chicken breast or Spam, Manwich or sloppy joe mix, chili, Chef Boyardee style-canned items, such as: beefaroni, lasagna, etc., Hamburger Helper, snacks of all kinds, including cookies, chops, pretzels, pudding, etc., flour, sugar, oatmeal, breakfast cereal, pancake syrup and mix, cooking oil. Instant rice, pasta or rice sides, ramen noodles, shampoo, bar soap, or body wash, and laundry detergent.

### THE PANTRY IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF:

**Canned Fruits:** sliced peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cup, applesauce, etc.

**Canned Vegetables:** kidney beans, black beans, green beans, whole kernel corn and creamed corn, pork & beans, sweet peas, carrots, beets, yams

**Canned Goods:** tomatoes, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce

**Condiments:** yellow and brown mustard, pickles, salad dressings, vinegar

**Drinks:** hot or cold tea, water

**Extra:** peanut butter, marshmallow fluff, jelly

**Dry Goods:** stuffing mix, Rice-a-Roni, pasta (rotini, penne, macaroni and cheese)

**Baking Items:** cake or brownie mix, frosting

**Breakfast Food:** pop tarts, cereal bars

**Paper Products:** tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

**Personal Care Items:** toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and hairbrushes

**Cleaning and Disinfectant Products:** dish soap and laundry detergent

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

**Please check dates on donated food products.**

The Brandywine Food Pantry is supported by churches, civic groups, individuals, businesses, and schools in and around the Brandywine Heights Area School District. It

welcomes all donations of food, personal items, or cash.

The pantry is open to area residents by appointment on the first three Tuesdays of the month and the third Thursday, from 9:15 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. For appointments, call 610-682-7633 either Tuesday or Thursday or leave a message with your contact information.



These are the items we are requesting for our Backpack Buddies Program. **Generic items may be purchased, but please follow the description of the item.**

- Hormel Beans & Ham, 7.5 oz. microwavable cups
- Campbell’s, microwavable cups, any variety soup
- Rice-a-Roni, microwavable cups, any flavor
- Chicken of the Sea To-Go Cups, Tuna packs, cups or bags
- Chef Boyardee Lasagna, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Ravioli, 7.5 oz. microwavable cups
- Kraft Mac and Cheese, microwavable cups
- Quaker Chewy Granola Bars, any variety
- Otis Spunkmeyer Muffins, any variety, individually wrapped
- Borden Non-refrigerated Milk, 6.75 oz.
- Austin 6 Cracker Packs, any variety
- Pepperidge Farms Goldfish, 1 oz. – 1.5 oz. individual packs
- Kellogg’s Cereal, individual cups or boxes, any variety
- Juice Boxes, any variety
- Popcorn, individual bags





## A MONTH OF THANKSGIVING

*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.* – **John 10:10b**

Thankful people are happy people. It's not just a feel-good slogan on a refrigerator magnet or bumper sticker; it's proven science.

“Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships,” reports Harvard Medical School’s *Healthbeat*. That sounds like the abundant life Jesus describes in the gospels, doesn’t it?

So why aren’t Christians more thankful and happy? While we all sometimes face hardships that can avert our thankfulness, many of us simply take our blessings for granted. Perhaps we have succumbed to the lie we hear from 24/7 advertising – that we never *have* enough and never *are* enough.

Hopeful news from researchers is that thankfulness can be cultivated. Those who consistently *practice thankfulness* develop gratitude and happiness.

This November, the month of Thanksgiving, make thankfulness a daily spiritual practice. Here are some ideas for “A month of Thanksgiving”:

- **Pray thanksgiving.** In your morning and evening prayers, thank God for your life and whatever specific blessings come to mind.
- **Keep a thanks diary.** Every day write down what you are thankful for and why. Challenge yourself to find and pray about 10 things daily.
- **Express thank you.** Go out of your way to express thanks to the people you encounter every day with a kind word or a note.
- **Create a thankfulness calendar.** Every morning write something on your calendar for which you are grateful to God, and think, pray and meditate on it until bedtime.

Practice thankfulness consistently and you might be surprised to find yourself enjoying the abundant life Jesus promises us.

—Rob Blezard

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## WE HONOR OUR VETERANS

On Veterans Day we honor men and women who have served and sacrificed in one of America’s armed services. The holiday is also meant to highlight America’s quest for world peace and our nation’s desire for justice and freedom throughout the world—our nation’s higher goals.

Veterans Day is actually rooted in Armistice Day. On November 11, 1918, America and her allies met with German leaders to sign a truce ending World War I. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson decided that our nation should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor those who served in the military. He called the holiday, Armistice Day. Armistice means “truce.”

In his proclamation the president wrote that Armistice Day was an “opportunity ... given to America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations.

The name Armistice Day was kept until 1954 when Congress changed the name to Veterans Day honoring veterans of every era. President Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day remembering the sacrifices of veterans and “the task of promoting an enduring peace.”

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



Dear Members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church,

All our volunteer firefighters and their families want to extend a sincere thank you for serving such a delicious breakfast to us on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the church. What a wonderful way to show appreciation to our First Responders. Special thanks to all the church members who cooked and served all the food. Our firefighters really enjoyed the morning and your fellowship. Thanks again for a wonderful breakfast!

Sincerely yours,  
*Jerry L. Keller*  
Asst. Fire Chief

## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

**September 30, 2019**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 24,279.40
Thrivent	8,067.55
Checking	6,600.02
Youth	405.24
Fidelity	115,198.26
Cash Reserve	20,295.78
Mission Investment	11,429.58
Local Care	1,753.75
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 188,029.58</u></b>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **September 30, 2018**      \$ 200,710.36

### **September 2019 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’** **Income**

Income	Income	Actual	Difference
Used For:	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,077.08	\$ 4,893.26	\$ (4,183.82)

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

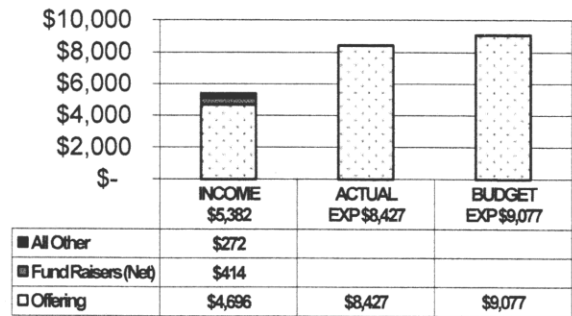
Parking Lot – Funds received to offset expenses  
for Driveway/Parking Lot Repaving

\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Project  
\$ 28,041.54 Funds Received to offset expenses



**Daylight Savings Time Ends November 3rd**

### SEPTEMBER 2019 YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE



MONTHLY AVERAGE

### CALENDAR YEAR 2019 INFORMATION NORMAL OPERATIONS (DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)

INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY SEPTEMBER 2019 YEAR-TO-DATE		
	Sep Y-T-D	Average Month
<b>Income</b>		
Offering	\$ 42,267	\$ 4,696
Fund Raisers	\$ 3,722	\$ 414
Other	\$ 2,446	\$ 272
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 48,435</b>	<b>\$ 5,382</b>
<b>Actual Exp</b>	\$ 75,840	\$ 8,427
<b>Budget Exp</b>	\$ 81,696	\$ 9,077
<b>Shortage *</b>	\$ (33,261)	\$ (3,696)

\*NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2019 BUDGET Expense  
Less Benevolence & Major Repairs/Purchases

### OUR ANSWER

God is the origin of both need and supply, the father of our necessities, the abundant giver of the good things. Right gloriously he meets the claims of his child! The story of Jesus is the heart of [God's] answer, not primarily to the prayers, but to the divine necessities of the children he has sent out into his universe.

– George MacDonald

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



## THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### November

- |   |    |                |  |
|---|----|----------------|--|
| * | 3  | 10:00 AM       | All Saints' Sunday (W) – Holy Communion  |
|   | 10 | 10:00 AM       | Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost (G) – Holy Communion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Stewardship Sunday</li><li>▪ Congregational Meeting and Luncheon after worship</li></ul> |
| * | 17 | 10:00 AM       | Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (G) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Faith Formation Event at 12:00 noon</li></ul>  |
|   | 24 | 10:00 AM       | Christ the King Sunday (W) – Holy Communion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Stewardship Meeting after worship</li></ul>  |
|   | 27 | <b>7:00 PM</b> | Thanksgiving Eve Service (G) – Holy Communion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Held at Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers</li></ul>  |

### December

- |   |    |                |   |
|---|----|----------------|---|
| * | 1  | 10:00 AM       | First Sunday in Advent (B) – Holy Communion   |
|   | 8  | 10:00 AM       | Second Sunday in Advent (B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Faith Formation Event at 12:00 noon</li></ul> |
| * | 15 | 10:00 AM       | Third Sunday in Advent (B)  |
|   | 22 | 10:00 AM       | Fourth Sunday in Advent (B)   |
| * | 24 | <b>7:00 PM</b> | Christmas Eve (W) – Holy Communion  |
| * | 29 | 10:00 AM       | First Sunday of Christmas (W)   |

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
SERVICE NEW TIME**  
We will have one worship service  
on December 24<sup>th</sup> at **7:00 p.m.**

### January

- |  |    |          |   |
|--|----|----------|---|
|  | 5  | 10:00 AM | Epiphany of Our Lord (W) – Holy Communion |
|  | 12 | 10:00 AM | Baptism of Our Lord (W) – Holy Communion  |
|  | 19 | 10:00 AM | Second Sunday after Epiphany (G)          |
|  | 26 | 10:00 AM | Third Sunday after Epiphany (G)           |

### FELLOWSHIP DATES:

( \* ) Fellowship after worship





## GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

**What you need:**

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)


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**Red:** a need God has provided for  
**Orange:** a gift you've received  
**Yellow:** something you've recently learned  
**Green:** something in nature  
**Blue:** a special memory  
**Brown:** someone you love

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**What you do:**


1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!



# PUZZLE

## A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



*Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.*

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“I thank my God every time I remember you.” Philippians 1:3	Hannah
“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Luke 1:46-47	David
“He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.” Exodus 15:2	Mary
“My heart rejoices in the LORD.” 1 Samuel 2:1	Paul
“I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.” Psalm 69:30	Moses

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
11/3	Gladys Kline	Cindy Rissmiller	Susan Schlenker	Susan Schlenker
11/10	Jeannette DeLong	Gladys Kline	Lisa Landis	Cheryl Wiltrout
11/17	Josh Keck	Ken Keck	Dale Schwoyer	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
11/24	<i>(volunteer needed)</i>	Ty Rissmiller	Ty and Cindy Rissmiller	Cheryl Wiltrout

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

**CHILDREN'S BULLETINS:** Gladys Kline

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** Cheryl Wiltrout

**COMMUNION BREAD:** 11/3 – Cheryl Wiltrout; 11/10 – *(sponsor needed)*; 11/24 – Sara Jane Beshore

**COMMUNION SET-UP:** 11/3 – Cheryl Wiltrout; 11/10 – *(volunteer needed)*; 11/24 – Sara Jane Beshore

**COUNCILPERSONS:** Ty Rissmiller and Cheryl Wiltrout

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

# NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	2
					<b>All Saints' Day</b>	
3 All Saints' Sunday ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship ▪ Scouting for Food Collection  <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b>	4 10:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	5 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal Bishop's Conference → Shawnee Inn & Resort  <b>Election Day</b>	6 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  -----→	7	8 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	9 4:00-10:00pm-Veteran's Appreciation Dinner Dance, Wilson High School
10 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Stewardship Sunday ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Congregational Meeting after worship ▪ Luncheon following Congregational Meeting	11 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting  <b>Veteran's Day</b>	12 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	13 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	14 10:00am-Bible Study	15 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	16
17 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Fellowship after worship 12:00pm-Faith Formation  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	18 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	19 5:00pm-Congregational Conversations, Trinity, Topton 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	20 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon, Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	21 10:00am-Bible Study	22 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	23
24 Christ the King Sunday ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Stewardship Meeting after worship	25 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth on vacation until December 2	26 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	27 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Thanksgiving Eve Service, Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers ▪ Holy Communion	28  <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	29 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	30

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Synod Assembly 2020 June 4, 5, and 6 - Kalahari Resort - Pocono Manor, PA



We Are Church  
Together

NEPA Synod Assembly 2020

It'll be here before you know it - Synod Assembly! Our annual gathering of congregations and ministries, members and ministers, all of us who call the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod our home. It's a special time we get together and get to meet, see and hear from leaders and guests from across our synod, and beyond - ELCA Churchwide representatives, as well as other denominations and faith communities. It's also a great opportunity to learn, to share, to work, and to celebrate and challenge ourselves around our theme: **WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER.**

Last June our shorter, one-day Assembly was meant to help us all save up resources for this coming year's three-day program - necessary to allow time for the election of a new Bishop. We're returning to the Kalahari Resort, in their

newest, state-of-the-art conference facilities, set to open in early 2020. In many ways it will be the ideal location for conducting God's business, praising the Lord in worship, and taking a little time for a little fun as well.

Voting members, visitors, and their families can stay at a reduced rate - saving the most when the spacious rooms are shared by four people. Anyone staying overnight also gets free admission to the Water Park, and extending your stay can be a great way to tag on some extra fun time. More details about rates and accommodations will be published soon.

For now - we invite congregations and their leaders to spread the word and starting thinking about whom to invite and encourage to attend. All are welcome! For now - save those dates! And watch the Synod News and our synod website for more information as it becomes available, as we count down to June 2020 and declare:

**WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER!**

### ABOUT THE ASSEMBLY LOGO:

- \* The colors are tied to the four colors of the ELCA logo.
- \* The circle suggests movement: God is moving in and with us to make us new, but also brings us "full circle" to the things that are everlasting.
- \* The circle is also incomplete: the church is a work-in-progress; and God's work in Christ is never done until the day when all can enter in and go out free and well, sharing in God's mercy, grace and peace.
- \* The circle and the word "Together" are the color green - symbolizing life and growth, and our care for all creation.
- \* The cross marks us as the church of Jesus Christ, the Crucified and Risen One, who died for all and brings life to all.

## We Did It!

Always  
being made  
New.

The Campaign for the ELCA.

**Always Being Made New campaign concludes with a total impact of \$250 million.**

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, has concluded after more than five years with a total impact of \$250 million, including \$195 million in cash gifts and gift commitments, as well as \$55 million for planned gifts to campaign ministries.

"The Campaign began in 2013 with a goal of nearly \$200 million," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. "That was a big goal. But with God's help and our members' generous support, we made it. I thank God for what this church has done for the ELCA's ministries – here at home and around the world."

The campaign focused on areas that include growing this church's communities of faith, forming new leaders, welcoming neighbors, overcoming malaria, confronting hunger and poverty, and accompanying our global churches.

For a detailed look at the campaign's impact in its four priority areas, as well as a breakdown of giving, please visit [ELCA.org/campaign](http://ELCA.org/campaign).

## Renew Your Required Background Checks for Employees and Volunteers



At the end of 2014 new laws took effect that require all employees and volunteers working with children to receive background checks. Laws were amended in 2015 that changed the requirement from every three years to every five years and made some of the background checks free for volunteers.

**If you completed this process in 2015 it is time to think about renewal of these checks.** Our synod website has links and other information you can use to renew these clearances (<http://nepasynod.org/child-safety>).

The laws that came about in 2014 also put into place the new reality that our church volunteers now are mandated reporters if they become aware of or even suspect abuse or neglect toward a child. If your employees and/or volunteers have not been informed or trained in what this requires, now is as good a time as any to make that happen.

Here is a link to a document from the PA Department of Human Services that provides a lot of useful information and answers frequently asked questions: [http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/C\\_135249.pdf](http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/C_135249.pdf).

Finally, if your congregation does not already have a policy that outlines how children and youth will be kept safe in your church, you should be working on one. If your insurance carrier has not yet required you to do so, they probably will in the near future. Many insurance websites have resources, or you can browse the internet for "Safe Church Policies."

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