

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

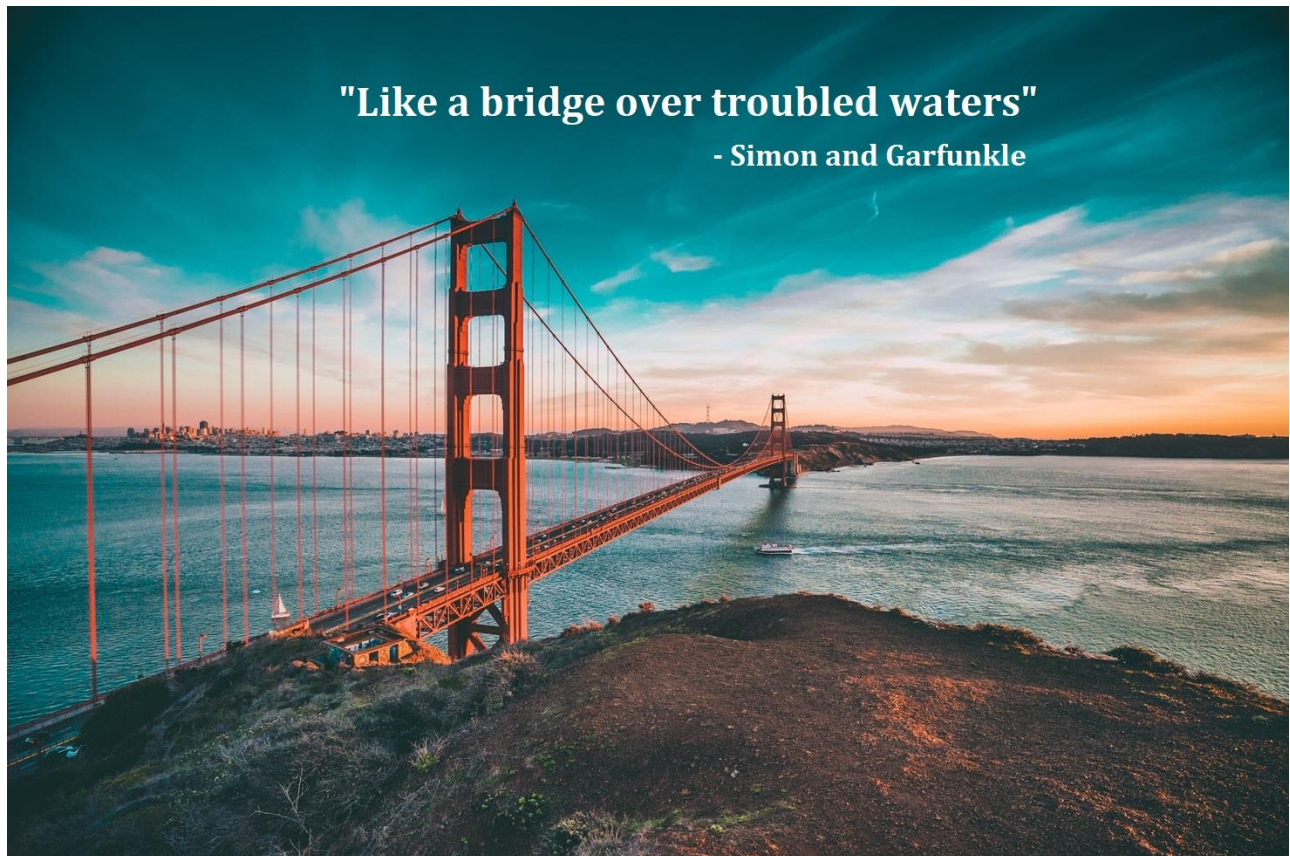
E-MAIL: njelchurch@windstream.net

WEBSITE: <https://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

(Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)



"Like a bridge over troubled waters"

- Simon and Garfunkle

-Joseph Barrientos

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.*



“Like a bridge over troubled waters”

– Simon and Garfunkle

These past months we have witnessed troubled waters, water surges and angry rivers caused by intense storms. We have seen the damage that troubled waters can do, damage that washes away homes and security and even bridges. We are also aware of the troubled “waters” of intense anxiety in our community, our nation, and our world, and how that anxiety washes away our sense of home, security, and our links/emotional bridges, to others.

God longs to be a bridge over our troubled waters, to help us get from feelings of frustration, hopelessness and despair to the other side, to the hope filled present and future God envisions. God longs to help us get from where we are to the side firmly grounded in God’s love, acceptance and assurance. God longs to be the bridge *and* longs to teach us how to be bridgebuilders, to be engineers creating whatever it takes to span the distance between us and one another, between God, humans, and all of creation.

Just as rivers are fed by what is upstream, the troubled waters of anxiety are fed by insecurity, by not believing that we are enough and that we matter, are valued, and loved. Troubled waters are fed by fear: fear of scarcity, fear of others, fear of the future. Troubled waters are fed by a misplaced trust in ourselves, in overly valuing individualism, which can lead to a sense of personal failure or leads us to quickly stomp our feet and shout out, “You can’t tell me what to do,” rather than look at the bigger picture of community and for ways to care for one another.

Martin Luther knew the troubled waters of anxiety. The church of his day taught him that God was an angry God, ready to strike down anyone who didn’t measure up to God’s high standards. Add on top of that: plagues, a gross division between the haves and have nots, and wars and rumors of wars. Luther tried to calm his anxiety by being the best he could, but it didn’t work. He figuratively and literally beat himself up. Even his trusted mentor couldn’t convince him that God was loving. It was not until he could finally hear, until words from Romans finally sank in, that it is faith, not works, that make us right with God, that Jesus Christ was the bridge to a right relationship with God, that he found relief for his anxious spirit. Luther found relief when he finally heard what God in Jesus was saying: “I am the Way. You are valued and I am the bridge over your troubled waters.”

***Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.***

– Romans 5: 1

As for becoming bridgebuilders, the first step is determining what is really solid, what will support the spans. The first step for the bridge we need over our troubled waters is to listen for and to God's word, not just read the Bible but also listen to God's Word revealed to us in Jesus. We need to do this with others. We need to question and discuss what it means, as well as listen to voices outside our immediate community.

Developing skills as bridgebuilders for God includes listening not only to those around us who think like us, but seeking out and listening to voices we haven't really heard before, even to voices we have been taught to distrust. Such listening needs to be *active*. It needs to be curious, to ask open questions, to search for common ground, for what it is we can build relationships upon. It means letting go of our defenses and agenda and listening for what someone has called the "music underneath the words." Active listening means valuing the other as an equally loved and valued child of God. It is this type of listening that can cut through insecurity and fear. It is this type of listening which can help us see the bigger picture and help us develop care for others, the kind of care that builds community.

Active, patient, curious listening communicates to the other that they matter, that they are valued. Active listening just may encourage them, in turn, to listen to and build that same sense of worth in the one who is listening to them. Once I feel heard, that you have really heard what I am saying, that you have heard my words and what may be underneath my words, it can open me up to listen to you.

"Listen! Listen, God *is* calling, to the Word (Jesus) inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy." Listen! God is also calling through others.

Lord, be our bridge over troubled waters. Lord, open our ears and our hearts and teach us how to build bridges over the troubled waters of these times. May we find our solid footing in you and follow you across the bridges you reveal into the future you envision.

Peace be with you.

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 September 13:

- Rita Kayhart, Scout Representative, gave an update on the many activities the scouts are doing. A motion was made to approve the removal of bees near the scout cabin, taking down 2 trees, and painting the cabin roof.
- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee, gave a report on the budget for 2022. A motion was made to present this budget proposal to the congregation.
- Food to supplement our donations to the Brandywine Food Pantry was purchased with a \$250 Thrivent grant.

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Sunday, October 17**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

Worship in our building will be held October 3 and 17 at 10:00 a.m. Worship will be held via Zoom on October 10, 24, and 31. Communion will be offered on the Parking Lot Saturday, October 30, at 5:00 p.m.

CAMPFIRE WITH THE SCOUTS AND COMMUNION ON THE PARKING

OCTOBER 30, 3:00-8:00 p.m. Nothing like a campfire with friends on a brisk fall evening. Come when you can, leave when you must. Drinks and campfire food will be provided. Bring a lawn chair if you can. Remembering how Jesus shared meals over a fire with his disciples, we will celebrate communion at **5:00 p.m.** Those who feel more comfortable staying in their cars for communion are welcome to do so.

OTHER WORSHIP NOTES

For services on Zoom (October 10, 24 and 31), you can connect with Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other devices. Links will now also be listed in the bulletins or you can call the church office if you need more information.

Bulletins are being mailed or emailed to those who request them so that they can worship at home. If you would like to receive one, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or njelchurch@windstream.net.

Bulletins are also available on our website. Those not able to join a Zoom service, can watch them later on our Facebook page or on our website under the "Zoom Worship Services" tab. Website: <https://newjerusalem.lutheran.weebly.com>.

LINK FOR ZOOM WORSHIP

New Jerusalem Sunday Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89499550266?pwd=Mnl3bmxCMkI3TDIHZGRlNXVhVlVlMzZ09>

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**; Passcode: **27**

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,89499550266# US (Chicago)

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**

OCTOBER WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15.00 for a month. If you would like to sponsor any of the available dates below, please leave a message on the church answering machine with your dedication. Thank you!

Since the pandemic limits our ability to gather, we are now mailing bulletins to many members. The cost for that is about \$45 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

Altar Flower sponsors for October:

October 3 – Dale Schwoyer

October 17 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors for October:

October 3 – Virginia Guinther

October 10 – *sponsor needed*

October 17 – *sponsor needed*

October 24 – *sponsor needed*

October 31 – *sponsor needed*

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for October:

sponsor needed

Children's Bulletins for October:

sponsor needed

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

Our current guidelines are listed below, but may change as the infection rate changes around us. The guiding principle is love of God and love for our neighbor, including the vulnerable among us.

- 1) For the time being, seating will be every other pew. This can be further discussed in the future. Members will be directed as to where to sit.
- 2) If you have been vaccinated for COVID, you have the choice of taking your mask off or leaving it on. If you are not vaccinated, we recommend that you wear a mask.
- 3) At present masks are not required while singing, but given that singing is known to greatly accelerate the particles we exhale, masks can provide extra protection for all. Especially if you are not vaccinated, it is highly recommended that you wear a mask if you choose to sing.
- 4) Communion will be held the first Sunday of the month in your pew.
- 5) Communion on the Parking Lot will be held the last Saturday of the month so as to include those who don't feel safe to come into church.
- 6) For the time being, we will continue to do in-church worship on the first and third Sundays of the month and Zoom services on the other Sundays. Further research and discussion is taking place about live broadcasting and recording church services to accommodate those not able to worship in the building.

The Worship and Music Committee, the council and our Task Force will continue to monitor the situation and will make modifications as they deem it wise.

BIBLE STUDY

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 5:1

Our Bible Study group is currently studying Paul's letter to the Romans. It was while reading this letter that Martin Luther discovered God's grace, that he came to understand that we are saved by God's undeserved love and not by works. Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, October 11, 18 and 25 at 11:00 a.m.** in the church building. Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, October 7, at 10:00 a.m.** Pages and supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.

Not able to get to church or don't feel comfortable getting together there? Just let them know and pages will be sent to you and you can visit with other members by phone. If you are interested, please let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

CHRISTMAS AT SEA: SATCHELS FOR SEAFARERS

Once again this year we will be filling satchels for those who transport our goods across the waters. The fingers of our members have been hard at work knitting and crocheting hats and cowls. Now it is time to provide the other items that go in a satchel:

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)
- Three Pairs of Socks (thermal or gym)
- One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL) ▪ One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
- One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Health Snack Bar
- A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. If buying both a sweatshirt and a t-shirt, please make them the same size.

If you would like to contribute any of these items, please get them to church by **November 21** so we can fill what is needed using a \$250 Thrivent grant. Additional hats and cowls are also due **November 21**.

THRIVENT GRANTS ARE ALSO BEING SOUGHT for the **Thanksgiving dinner boxes** and the **Christmas clothing gifts for children** which are coordinated with Friend, Inc. More details in November's newsletter.

REMEMBER THE CLEAN-UP BUCKETS WE HELPED TO FILL?

When Hurricane Ida struck, these buckets were quickly on their way to people in our region who needed the supplies. **Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS)** is also providing a case manager to help survivors identify available assistance and navigate applications. In addition, LCS is helping to match teams from Lutheran congregations in our region who can assist in muck out and rebuilding with those who need help.

FROM UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY: REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC IN LIGHT OF 1918.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from R. Guy Erwin, President, United Lutheran Seminary, (ULS). ULS has brought together the seminaries located in Philadelphia and Gettysburg and maintains both campuses.

Dear friend of the Seminary,

. . . I wish I could say that this is the first time our campuses experienced a pandemic, but of course, any student of history knows this is not the case. At the end of World War I, the so-called “Spanish flue” ravaged the world and our country in four successive waves, killing more people than those who had died in the war itself. The Gettysburg and Philadelphia seminaries were not left unscathed.

Half of the student population of the Philadelphia seminary volunteered to be part of a burial detail at Mt. Airy’s Ivy Hill Cemetery. A young student who had enlisted in the military died from the flue at Camp Hancock, Georgia on November 6, 1918, just days before the Armistice. What were his classmates thinking and feeling when they gathered in Schaeffer-Ashmead Memorial Chapel to commend young William S. Wright to God’s eternal rest? Perhaps they were wrestling with some of the same existential issues we too are thinking about. Classes and worship were canceled, and students were urged to quarantine. By the end of the pandemic, an estimated 12,000 people would die in Philadelphia alone.

In Gettysburg, there is scant record of the on-campus effort to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, but we know from other sources that a young US Army major by the name of Dwight D. Eisenhower faced a massive challenge to keep the troops of Camp Colt (located on the battlefield near present-day Long Lane) from becoming sick. By November 1918, 150 soldiers in his command

would die from the flue and a full third of his camp would contract it. The community of Gettysburg, including members of the seminary populations, were under quarantine and had limited access to resources that could help. They did what they could to stem the rising tide of illness, canceling events and festivities to mitigate the spread of disease.

Now again, a century later, we are called upon to bind up the spiritual and physical wounds of the sick and walk with those who mourn the loss of loved ones. . . .

As the Spanish flue pandemic afflicted our communities in the early 20th century and our ancestors responded in faith and compassion, we are called to be present in this time of pain and uncertainty. It sounds ironic, but *this time of need is a good time to be the church*. Our faith is called to action; we are called to serve in the face of all forms of danger, and to offer hope when many are tempted to despair. In this moment, we can lay claim to the promise of Romans 5:4-5, that “endurance produces character, and character produces hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. “Hope does not disappoint us.”

What does this mean in the Lutheran sense? The power of God’s love is stronger than anything this or any uncertain moment can throw at us. The power of God’s love sustains the efforts of our students at the seminary, our pastors in the field, and our ordinary living, filling it with sacred possibilities. Hope does not disappoint us, because we have Christ and we have each other.

Thank you for your continued support of United Lutheran Seminary. . . . Together we are building hope for the future of the church and world.

– R. Guy Erwin

United Lutheran Seminary is one of the ministries which is supported through our Benevolence dollars.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to the members of New Jerusalem who sent cards for my 90th birthday. It meant a lot to me. – *Dorothy Turner*



NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

SAUSAGE SANDWICH & IRON KETTLE SOUP SALE

Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, is holding a sausage sandwich sale on **Saturday, October 2, from 10:30 a.m.** until sold out. Sandwiches are only \$5.00 each.

They will also be selling soup (vegetable beef and chicken corn noodle). Cost is \$7.50 a quart. Pickup time is 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To pre-order Renee at 484.646.9082. Leave a message with your name, phone number, and amounts.

BLUE MOUNTAIN HERITAGE CHORUS

All are welcome at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 50 Luther Drive, Mertztown, on **Sunday, October 10, at 2:00 p.m.** for an afternoon of fellowship and song. The Chorus will sing favorite hymns, patriotic songs, some Johnny Cash and Wild West tunes. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

TRUNK OR TREAT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 50 Luther Drive, Mertztown, will be holding a safe and fun Trunk or Treat event on **Sunday, October 24, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** Everyone gets a FREE hot dog, chips and drink! Feel free to join us with your decorated trunk with treats! Any questions, contact Shannon Wetzel at 484.866.3877 or email her at Wetzelshannon6@gmail.com or contact the church at 610.682.6229.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 121 S. Home Avenue, Topton will also be holding a Trunk or Treat on **Sunday, October 31, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** (which is Topton's trick-or-treat night).



- 5 Richard Boyer
- 14 Marlowe Greis
- 15 Samuel Marks
- 19 Gladys Kline
- 20 Phyllis Fenstermacher
- 20 Tina Howell
- 20 Blane Musser
- 27 Luann Bennecoff



- 1 Craig and Lynne Lounsbury (27 years)
- 12 Jason and Elizabeth Keller (8 years)
- 13 Denny and Sara Jane Beshore (48 years)
- 27 Jarrett and Amy Hahn (3 years)

LEARNING FROM AUTUMN LEAVES

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor—mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

— MaryAnn Sundby

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

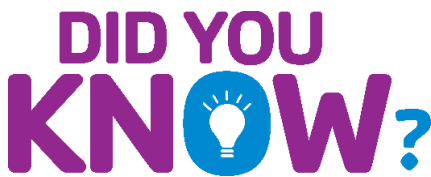
August 31, 2021

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 21,772.73
Thrivent	11,200.28
Checking	1,132.33
Youth	406.45
Fidelity	64,328.27
Cash Reserve	39,414.93
Mission Investment Fund	11,599.12
Local Care	<u>2,125.31</u>
	Total: <u>\$ 151,979.42</u>
Total Balance of Asset Accounts from August 31, 2020 <u>\$ 161,229.00</u>	

August 2021 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	<u>Income</u>		
	<u>Required</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Income</u>			
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,651.25	\$ 3,752.20	(\$ 5,899.05)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2021
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*



RAINBOW

The Rainbow represents God’s pardon and his promises. It also symbolizes his reconciliation to faithful Christians. After the Flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never destroy the earth that way again (Genesis 9:12-16). A rainbow can also represent the throne of Christ, as well as his glory and final judgment.



– Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

**A HARVEST OF SUFFICIENCY,
CONTENTMENT, AND GENEROSITY**

*When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God. – **Leviticus 19:9-10***

“What I earn is mine, ALL mine, to do with what I want.” That’s the message our culture tells us again and again. Yet the Leviticus 19:9-10 clearly tells us that the “mine, all mine” attitude existed some 2,500 years ago as well. It’s hard-wired into us.

Our sinful human nature leads us to claim all we can for ourselves, which is why for thousands of years and up to the present God has called faithful people to live a better way. In this passage, “the Lord your God” instructs farmers and vintners to harvest only once, and not to the very edges of their land, and to leave the remnants of the harvest to the poor and the foreigner – people on the margins scavenging for their daily bread.

The teaching encourages landowners to find sufficiency in their first harvest, to be content that their needs are met, and then be generous with what is left over. Today, Leviticus 19:9-10 challenges us whose “harvests” of income are more than sufficient to satisfy our immediate needs. Do we *have* to take it all? What can we give for the needy?

In this traditional season of harvest, what blessings can you count from the last year? (Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider this, and make a list). Does your harvest more than adequately meet your needs?

Now prayerfully consider how much you can generously “leave” for the needy? Consider this in making a year-end contribution to your congregation, or in determining a pledge for 2022.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com



BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY

(as of August 31, 2021)

In addition to food donations, please consider a generous monetary donation. 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 Street, Tipton, PA, 19562.**

Donated items most helpful right now: coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juices of all kinds, pancake syrup and mix, mayonnaise, ketchup, salad dressings, cooking oil, beef stew, spaghetti sauce, cup of ramen noodles or ramen noodles, canned meats such as tuna and/or chicken breast, Spam, snacks such as chips, pretzels, cookies, pudding, crackers, etc., shampoo, body wash, dish soap, paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, and laundry detergent.

We do not currently need: canned corn, mixed vegetables, green beans, and tomato soup.

The pantry can always use the following items:

Breakfast cereals

Canned items: especially those with meat, such as canned ham or ham salad, chicken and dumplings, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, beets, creamed style corn, etc.

Canned vegetables: kidney beans, beets, creamed corn, baked beans, pork and beans, sweet peas, carrots, and yams

Potatoes: instant mashed potatoes or other potato products

Soups: all kinds, but tomato

Condiments: pickles, vinegar

Tea

Fruit juice: such as grape, cranberry, apple

Extra: jelly, marshmallow fluff

Dry goods: pasta sides

Paper products: tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

Personal care items: shampoo/conditioner, bar soap, personal hygiene items

Cleaning and disinfectant products: including dish soap and laundry detergent

Gluten-free and sugar-free items

Please check dates on donated food products.

The pantry is open to area residents by appointment on the first three Tuesdays of the month and the third Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. Call 610-682-7633 or email us at brandywinepantry@gmail.com. Call either Tuesday or Thursday or leave a message with your contact information.



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, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT

Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace and Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, and Dale Schwoyer.

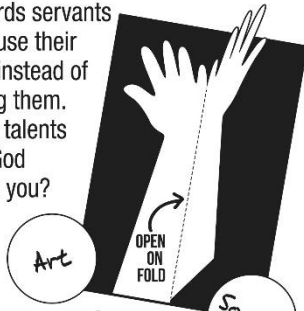
Friends of the congregation: Michael Basta, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mitch Burkhardt, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Nicole F., Dennis Grof, Jason Grof, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Debra Kenny, Barry Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Johnathan Naugle, Ruth Ramsey, Lexi Recke, Tierney Schmeer, Patricia Sigfried, Shawn Sptaz, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for: all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters; migrants and refugees; for our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and systemic racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; and our military personnel serving around the world.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Nancy Bennecoff, Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Janis Kershner, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.

FULL OF TALENT

In Matthew 25:14-30, the master rewards servants who use their gifts instead of hiding them. What talents has God given you?



What you need:

- Construction paper (2 sheets)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Gold crayon or pen
- Black pen

What you do:

1. Fold one sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Trace your hand and lower arm so your arm touches the folded edge. Cut out the arm and hand, keeping the folded edge uncut.
2. Glue the folded hand to the other sheet of paper.
3. In gold, draw five coins in the hand. In black, write the skills and gifts God has given you.
4. Open the fold and draw 10 gold coins in the two open hands. In black, write how you can use your skills and gifts to help others and honor God.



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

1	5	x 3	=		6	6	x 6	=	
2	7	x 4	=		7	9	x 3	=	
3	4	x 6	=		8	3	x 8	=	
4	2	x 10	=		9	10	x 4	=	
5	9	x 5	=		10	11	x 8	=	

KEY

A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____.

Come and share your master's happiness!’”

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

OCTOBER 2021 • ISSUE 10 • VOLUME 29

CONGREGATIONAL LEGACY & PURPOSE

BY DEACON TRAVIS WOODFIELD

I have to admit, I'm a sucker for history, especially church history. I love learning about times in the past that I'll never get to experience, in places I can only aspire to visit. I've been fortunate to go to some of those places: I've stood in churches that were 1,000 years old across Europe and marveled at the engineering, been in the cradle of the Roman Empire, lived in New York City and Philadelphia, laid down, in the rain, in the grass of monasteries from 800 years ago that is now in ruins. In all of these places, I try to imagine what it was like to be part of a community from long ago. Sometimes it's easier than others, I know something unique about a place or I know how a building was built, but the end is the same- I am in a place, remembering what I can about it, being part of its history and life.

There is a cycle to these things. Empires come and go. Leaders and rulers come and go. Institutions come and go. All of these life cycles, being born, going through a growth period, living adulthood, moving into the twilight of life, and finally, death, are all part of our lives, whether on a personal or institutional level. Part of the incredible message of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection is that death does not have the final word. However, no matter how much we try to avoid it, duck it, or deny it, death will have a word. Jesus himself understood that the only way to resurrection was through death - after all, if there's no death before resurrection, what we are really talking about is immortality, which is certainly not the Christian message.

These "deaths" can come in many forms in the church. Maybe it's moving a worship time, moving from 2 services to 1 so that the community might be one and ministry might be effective. It may be struggling with how to do "virtual" church in the time of a pandemic. Maybe it's letting a go special ministry that the church can no longer support with financial or labor. Maybe it's giving up a building to move to a building that fits the congregation. Maybe it's merging or closing.

The truth is that none of these realities, these deaths, are easy to imagine or even embrace. There is real grief, fear, anxiety, anger, and sadness that comes with even thinking about them. It's also true that we are not alone in these decisions. We do not know what resurrection may look like, but we know that it is Christ's promise. History always seems short when we are the ones participating in it. Christ sees the long view and, I think, wondering how we can participate in trying to see that long view is part of our call as a Christian. We cannot see the end but we can think and pray about what next, faithful steps may be. As a church, we have to start thinking about what those faithful steps might be, both as individuals, as a church, and as a synod.

Four years ago, I had the chance to go to the Isle of Iona in Scotland and visit the Benedictine abbey there, which is now a retreat center. Could a group of Benedictine nuns, living in the 1200's on a remote island of Scotland, possibly imagine that a guy from a land that had not been discovered yet to come visit their monastery? That, I would lay down, in the rain, in the ruins of their chapel, and imagine what it was like to worship there? 800 years ago, it would have been simply impossible to dream. What they did do was make faithful decisions that allowed that moment to happen and, even in the literal ruins of their communal life, there was a moment of that community's resurrection in my mind and heart, remembering them. As we move forward as a church, locally and as a synod, I pray that we can make faithful, prayerful decisions that are resurrection decisions and not immortality ones.



Synod Staff:

STACEY BURKE

Stacey Burke is the Lutheran Center's receptionist and the friendly voice you will most likely hear when calling the Synod office. Her main responsibilities will be scheduling supply pastors and maintaining the database of congregations.

Stacey graduated with a graphic design and TV/Film degree and plans to use her positive attitude and creative mindset to fulfill God's work throughout the Synod office and beyond. Being an active member at Hope Lutheran Church in Cherryville for over 30 years, Stacey has volunteered her time in various committees including youth group, Vacation Bible School, choir, orchestra, and worship arts.

Stacey is inspired daily by her husband Kevin and their new baby boy. They love spending time together as a family, which also includes a cat named Duncan and a dog named Red. Stacey resides in Bethlehem and enjoys attending art festivals and concerts. In her free time, Stacey likes to capture photography, play the guitar, perform in theater arts and spend time outdoors. She is very excited to have the opportunity to join the Synod staff, and she looks forward to growing within the Lutheran Center and watching God inspire and work all around her.

OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>19th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in Building w/ Holy Communion</p> <p>Supply Pastor – Pastor Glenn Simmons</p> <p>Pastor Ruth - Vacation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>10:00am-Coloring Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>10:30am-Sausage Sandwich and Iron Kettle Soup Sale, Hope, Bowers</p>
					<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>9:00-11:00am-Super Saturday Virtual Workshop</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>20th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom</p> <p>2:00pm-Blue Mountain Chorus, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>7:00pm-Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>21st Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in Building</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>11:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>22nd Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship on Zoom</p> <p>3:00-5:00pm-Trunk or Treat, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>3:00-8:00pm-Campfire with the Scouts</p> <p>5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Reformation Sunday 10:00am-Worship on Zoom</p> <p>6:00-8:00pm-Trunk or Treat, Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton (Topton's Trick-or- Treat Night)</p>						