

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

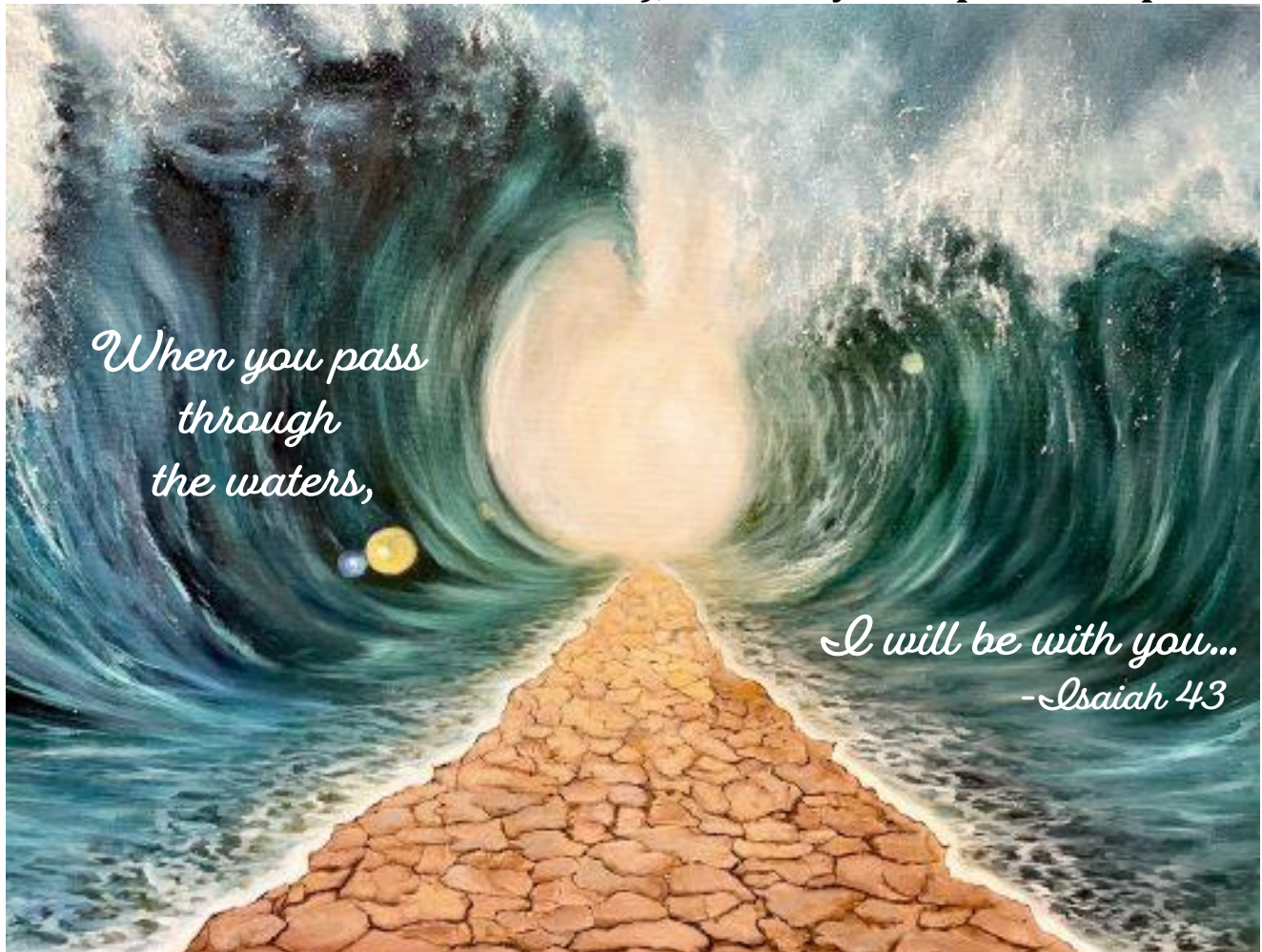
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OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

SECRETARY HOURS:

Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (in-office hours from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.), Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.



*When you pass
through
the waters,*

*I will be with you...
-Isaiah 43*

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.*



*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. – Isaiah 43:1-2*

Dear Partners in ministry,

Even though today is September 12, I've started to write this article in my head numerous times. Rick and I are leaving for vacation in a few days, and I want to get this to Korinne so she can get the newsletter out in a timely manner.

I've tried to start numerous times, but before I can get fingers to keyboard, something else happens. I know you know what I mean. I hear it often, "Now there's "this" (insert your own "this.>"). It just doesn't seem to stop!"

Some of the "this'es" we face are really serious, even life-changing, if not life-threatening. Some not so much. For example, I thought I was packed. Weeks ago I bought a long skirt I didn't particularly like, but it would do, and I altered it to just below the knee which the guidebook said was the length necessary if I wanted to visit a church. That was already in the bag. Three days ago I found out I have to have a *long* skirt to get into the monastery that is one of the highlights of our trip. Fortunately, I found another inexpensive one. Not the least bit serious, what my sons would call a "first world issue," but it was another "this" to deal with.

With the skirt thing being so very minor, you probably wonder why I bother to mention it. I do so because life is like that: big challenges, huge challenges, small challenges and everything in between, and when they come one right after another, even the small ones wear us down, and can even be the tipping point.

Our congregation is faced with many challenges right now. Not only do we have the "normal" ones like the lights in the basement aren't behaving and need some adjustment and then the copier gets finicky and we wonder whether it will last, but we have new and major ones: What do we need to do to divest ourselves of the building? How will we get all the material that needs to be archived ready in time? How will we get the place cleaned out? What shall we keep and what shall we save? How can we stay together and continue to do ministry? How can we care for every member during this process? How do we help with the very serious issues particular members are facing? Even as we make the list, something else serious comes up.

Lately in worship we've been following the story of the Children of Israel in Egypt and their miraculous release from slavery. As they headed out, they came to the Red Sea just at the moment that they saw Pharaoh's army in hot pursuit. God miraculously opened up the sea so they could pass through with dry feet. (I remember the original film version of the Exodus and thinking how scared the people would have been to enter between those waters that were over their heads and could have come crashing down at any moment.) Years after the rescue through the sea, God spoke through Isaiah, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you." (Isaiah 43:2) God's promise is that God will be with us as we walk through whatever threatens to overwhelm us, even if it is lots and lots of "little" challenges that just don't stop coming.

Then there was the time spent in the wilderness. No sooner had the Children of Israel gotten through the Red Sea and seen Pharaoh's army swallowed up before it could harm them, but they started complaining that the water they found was bitter. So, God showed Moses how to sweeten it. Then they grumbled that they didn't have food and God sent manna and quail and promised to provide this all the days of the journey. A little farther down the road they grumbled because they were thirsty. Then they grumbled because they were tired of manna and quail. In addition, as was to be expected among humans who are together for a period of time and especially on a long journey, quarrels erupted between families, between tribes, between whomever—you name it. I can just see Moses saying, "It's just one thing after another! What next?!" and being ready to give up. But here were all these people out in the wilderness. As much as Moses might have wanted to, he knew he couldn't just abandon them.

Along came his father-in-law, Jethro, who said, "You need some help. You can't expect yourself to deal with this all alone. You're going to wear yourself out. Appoint people to help you deal with the issues."

Especially when it's one thing after another, we need help. Even before things pile up, before we reach the breaking point, we need help and, in turn, we need to be helping one another along.

Council is aware that its members need help as we face each challenge. Since this *is* a congregation, all members need to be involved not only in the week-to-week tasks, but also in the next steps into the future. This is important not just to take the burden off council members, but because getting involved helps all who do so to process what is happening and to share their wisdom.

In the next weeks and months, you will be invited and requested to engage in a variety of actions ranging from thinking things through, brainstorming, sharing memories and visions of the future, to literally helping go through archives, clean out spaces, listen to and evaluate options, plan a celebration of ministry, etc. Even those who are homebound will be asked to assist in ways that fit their situation.

Your first opportunity is to acquaint yourself with the information in this newsletter about 6261 and Partners for Sacred Spaces. For some of you it may seem like too much information, but the more folks who are acquainted with these things which are being considered, the more likely we can hear God's voice and make sound decisions.

Another opportunity is coming up on October 30. That evening at 7:00 p.m. our council members will gather with those of other local churches to hear a detailed description of the 6261 proposal from the synod. Members are welcome to join us at Henry Auditorium on the campus of the Lutheran Home at 7:00 p.m.

In addition, in the near future, we plan to gather community leaders and neighbors to brainstorm potential uses for our sacred space. Let us know whom you think might be a person to invite.

Meanwhile, I pray that the big and little things do not overwhelm you. I pray that you are assured that God is with you and us and will see us through.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

Pastor Ruth



NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, September 11:

- Our Scout representative, Rita Kayhart, told us about the many activities that our scouts have been involved in. She also shared that they are in the process of starting up a cub pack, something they have been working on for several years. We reassured the scouts that this congregation plans to continue to support the troop, even as we are working out what our future will look like.
- We agreed to host the Thanksgiving Eve service at New Jerusalem.
- We discussed the many challenges facing us at this time and ways to engage members of the congregation in helping to meet them.
- We heard about initial consultations with a realtor and also with the organization known as Partners for Sacred Spaces.
- We considered potential uses for the building and property and ways to engage community members in thinking about these.
- We continued to learn about and discuss the proposal of 6261 (see pages 5-6). The councils of local Lutheran churches will be meeting with Deacon Kat Tigerman on October 30 to discuss more.
- Salaries for the staff for 2024 were discussed.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m.**

PASTOR RUTH will be on vacation until Monday, October 2. If you would need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman at 610.657.0269.

WYOMISSING BAND, INC.

Coming to the Lutheran Home at Topton in the Henry Auditorium on **Sunday, October 1, at 3:30 p.m.** the Wyomissing Band will be performing a variety of music. An offering will be taken for the band at the door. Come and enjoy an hour of music.

IMPORTANT! - WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Please take note that as a way to help our sister congregation of Trinity Topton, in order that Pastor Ruth can preach there once or twice a month, **beginning on Sunday, October 1, 2023**, New Jerusalem will be changing their worship time to **10:15 a.m.**

CHRIST MERTZ BLOOD DRIVE

The Miller-Keystone bloodmobile will be at Christ Mertz, Dryville, in their fellowship hall for a blood drive on **Sunday, October 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** There are 42 total timeslots available. Together, we can fill all those slots. To register a timeslot, go to the Miller-Keystone website at the link below or, if you prefer, call Miller-Keystone at 800-223-6667. Please help!

https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/85624.

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST – October 3

Join with others to discuss “Be You Be Barbie: Toward a Transformational Theology of Personhood” on **Tuesday, October 3, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Kutztown Tavern. Rev. Rebecca Hoover will be leading a discussion about our identities, God, and Barbie. All are welcome!

FALL CRAFT SHOW

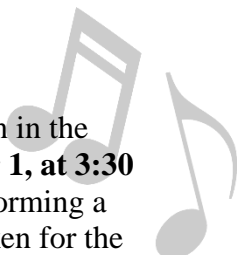
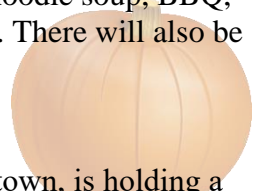
Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, is having a craft show on **Saturday, October 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Homemade chicken noodle soup, BBQ, hot dogs, and baked goods for sale. There will also be a raffle drawing. All are welcome!

FALL FESTIVAL

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Mertztown, is holding a Fall Festival on **Sunday, October 8, from 3:00-7:00 p.m.** Come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship. There will be a trunk or treat, games, activities, and food including a pig roast.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Monday morning Bible Study will begin again on **Monday, October 9, at 11:00 a.m.** We will be studying 1st John, 2nd John, and 3rd John.



COLORING GROUP

The Coloring Group will be meeting on **Thursday, October 5, at 10:00 a.m.** If you can't join us, pages can be sent to you. If interested, contact Phyllis Fenstermacher at 610.682.2423 or Diane Keller at 610.682.4152.

HELPING HARVEST/TOPTON MOBILE MARKET

The Helping Harvest food distribution will take place on **Tuesday, October 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Brandywine Heights MS/IS.

COMPASSIONATE CRAFTERS

Want to crochet, knit, or sew to God's glory? Join Trinity's Compassionate Crafters. Meetings take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton. We are in desperate need of sewers! We are working on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Our next meetings will be held on **Thursday, October 12 and 26.**

COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

Join us for our last Communion on the Parking Lot on **Saturday, October 14, at 5:00 p.m.**

JAMES MEN'S MINISTRY (JMM)

Breakfast gatherings start at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Their next meeting will be held **Saturday, October 21**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton.

READING PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT – October 21, 2023

The Brandywine Community Library is partnering with the Reading Philharmonic Orchestra for a live performance on **Saturday, October 21, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Brandywine Heights Middle School Auditorium, 200 W. Weis Street, Tipton. No tickets are needed. This event is free to the public, but any donations received will be split with the Reading Philharmonic Orchestra. The library will have Gertrude Hawk candy bars for sale for \$2.00 each. Come out and enjoy!

SOLO GRATIA CONCERT

A world premiere! On **Sunday, October 22, at 3:00 p.m.** Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown will host Sola Gratia – By Grace Alone: A musical parable for the ages. Narrated by Michael Conrad. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted and appreciated. Free parking.

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the November newsletter is **Sunday, October 22.** Please have all articles and announcements submitted to the church office by this date. Thank you!

FALL BAZAAR

A fall bazaar will be held at the Heilman House, 45 Home Road, Tipton on **Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Fall and Christmas crafts, cookies, soup, food, raffle, and treasures. For more information, call Curt M. at 718-844-3881 or Marlane D. at 610-641-1254.

CAMPFIRE WITH THE SCOUTS

On **Saturday, November 4, from 3:00-9:00 p.m.** we will hold our annual fall campfire with the scouts. This is your chance to roast hot dogs, get sticky with 's'mores, and just enjoy being together on a crisp fall evening.

SAVE THE DATE – All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is November 5.

SAVE THE DATE – Congregational Meeting

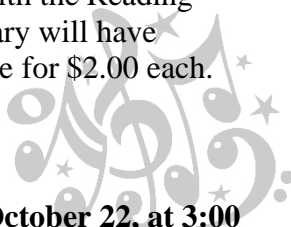
Our Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 12, 2023** along with Stewardship Sunday. Deacon Kat Tigerman will be our guest preacher. Besides presenting and voting on the budget, there will be an update on where we are in discerning our future.

THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church will be hosting the Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service this year. The service will be held on **Thursday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.** Let us join together to give thanks to God for all his bountiful blessings.

UPDATE ON CONFIRMATION CLASS

Carson and Logan Seip are continuing to work hard. We have finished the units on the Old and New Testament and are in the one on Lutheran History and Catechism. Our young men have become really adept at putting the events of the Old Testament in chronological order. Some of you will also have noticed that over the past weeks they have started sitting with various members of the congregation as a way of getting to know them.



OCTOBER SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Altar Flower sponsors for October 1 and 8; Bulletins sponsors for October 1, 8, and 22; a Sanctuary Candle sponsor; an Altar Guild volunteer; and a Communion Bread sponsor and Communion Set-up volunteer for October 1 and 29.

REJOICING SPIRITS

Mark your calendar! October 1, 2023, is the first birthday of Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County! There will be a celebratory carnival-themed fellowship time after their worship service. They will have a craft, games, prizes, cake and other snacks.

The host church, St. Paul's UCC in Kutztown, holds a worship service for Rejoicing Spirits the first Sunday of every month. The service begins at 3:00 p.m. with a fellowship time after the service. You are welcome to join!

What is Rejoicing Spirits? Rejoicing Spirits is an innovative ministry that works to enrich the faith lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and friends and other supportive community members. People are free to be themselves while actively participating as contributing members in an inclusive faith community.

What does Rejoicing Spirits do? They provide resources, support and coaching to help congregations include people with disabilities as active and valued members. Congregations partner with people with disabilities and those who support them to explore faith using the Rejoicing Spirits ministry model.



Seafarers International House

HAPPY 150TH ANNIVERSARY SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Milestones are a good time to reflect—and to look ahead. Seafarers International House marks their 150th anniversary of lighting the way for both seafarers and immigrants. They are grateful for God's guidance throughout 15 decades. This divine plan led them to the 2 million people they have served and continue to serve and connected them with those that make this work with mariners and migrants possible through their support: People like YOU!

UPDATE ON DISCERNING OUR FUTURE

Here are the steps council and others have been taking during the past few months:

- Pastor Ruth met with a realtor to begin exploration of possible sale of our property.
- Pastor Ruth had an initial consultation with a representative of Partners for Sacred Spaces, an organization which specializes in working with congregations to consider a variety of options for its building when the congregation can no longer afford to maintain or keep it.
- Council is continuing to work with Berks Surveying to figure out what the recent survey shows and how to advance the request to the township to deed the small cemetery to the Cemetery Board.
- Pastor has continued meeting with the other Lutheran pastors in the area to discuss options for cooperative ministry as well as ways to support Hope, Bowers and Trinity, Topton who are currently without pastors. She also continues to meet with those in the ministerium to think about ways to meet the needs of the community, including possible uses for our building.

JUST WHAT IS 6261?

You've been hearing bits and pieces about this. Here's a more detailed explanation.

6261
Ministry Communities

120 INTERCONNECTED CONGREGATIONS BY 2028

- Sharing Staff**
6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, & lay leaders, and 1 full-time deacon.
Some 6261 Ministry Communities may even include our Ecumenical partners.
- Happening Anywhere**
6261 Ministry Communities will be formed across the Synod - in rural & urban areas, with congregations of any size, and with congregations who currently have staff as well as those experiencing a vacancy.
- For the Sake of the Gospel**
Each 6261 Ministry Community will have its own primary ministry project centered in the love of Jesus and focused on addressing a justice issue within the surrounding community.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

katonepsynod.org
www.godslove.org/6261mc
Start a Narrative Inventory Form

6261 – the WHAT

6261 Ministry Communities are groups of **6** congregations served by **2** full-time pastors, **6** synod-licensed lay ministers, and **1** full-time deacon for shared ministry within their community.

- 6** congregations
- 2** full-time pastors
- 6** lay ministers
- 1** full-time deacon

The goal is that each 6261 Ministry Community will be bound together in common life, ministry, and mission. For many, this is a cultural, paradigm shift. Leaders work in co-partnership with one another and across the 6 congregations for the purpose of deeply rooted, shared, vital, and sustainable ministry within the community.

Each 6261 Ministry Community will be formed around at least one **primary ministry project**. This core, ministry focus will be embedded in its community and that community's context to address specific areas of human suffering by building relationships and encountering mutual transformation. This might look like healing the hurts by undertaking issues of poverty, mental health, food insecurity, affordable housing, or racial inequities. It might mean engaging the stranger by focusing on truly welcoming young people, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ communities. It might involve loving the land by working on green initiatives, reducing our waste as congregational institutions and as individuals, or by connecting our rural communities with more creation-friendly methods of farming. Whatever the passion and contextual need, a 6261 Ministry Community can commit to this profound work for the sake of the Gospel and one another.

6261 – the WHERE

6261 Ministry Communities can happen anywhere! Ideally, 6261 Ministry Communities will be comprised of 6 congregations who are within 15-25 minutes of one another. This geographic versatility gives the 6261 Ministry Community the opportunity to be deeply interconnected and to engage in ministry within the same surrounding community, demographically.

Our synod leaders hope to see 6261 Ministry Communities formed throughout the expanse of the Northeastern PA Synod, not just in our larger cities. 6261s can happen in rural areas as well as urban or suburban contexts.

6261s can be large or small congregations, those currently with full-time staff as well as those in a pastoral vacancy or who typically have only part-time staff. 6261s can also happen with our ecumenical “full communion” partners as well as ELCA and “full communion” partners across Synods. 6261s do not need to consist of only 6 ELCA congregations.

The benefit of a 6261 is that its interwoven nature allows for a variety of congregations to partner together for shared ministry. This ministry may have a singular focus that unites the 6 congregations. Or the 6261 may have several different yet complementary ministry foci across the 6 congregations that are mutually supported by the 6261 Ministry Community.

HOW WOULD 6261S PROMOTE VITALITY?

Ministry Communities promote vitality for all 6 of its congregations by providing:

- A collective pool of resources to support full-time pastors and deacons, in a time of clergy shortage and in a way that supports clergy health, as well as additional ministry staff such as musicians, Christian education, administration, and more.
- A training structure for lay ministers and interns, allowing for a natural flow of trained leadership—some of whom may discern a call to public, rostered ministry.
- A means for staff and members to practice teamwork in a familiar network as they will have to rely on one another to fully support and sustain ministry.
- Built-in support for re-identifying values, mission, and community in the wake of COVID-19 and an ever-changing social and cultural landscape.
- A deeper and broader training and accountability structure for councils, officers, committees, staff, rostered ministers, and lay ministers.
- Greater oversight to guard against financial malfeasance.
- Insight into the Church universal as congregations partner together for the sake of the Gospel, reaching beyond their individual doors into the broader community.
- Increased opportunities for worship, Bible study, small groups, service, fellowship, and other faith practices.

WHAT WOULD THE STAFF LOOK LIKE?

Licensed lay ministers, deacons, and pastors will be the pastoral staff of 6261 Ministry Communities, supported by **coaching**. All 3 types of leaders are essential.

Licensed lay ministers will vary in their theological backgrounds and training, gifts and passions for ministry, and their availability for service. These lay ministers will become licensed for serving in the 6261 Ministry Community after completing the synod-authorized discernment, training, and certification for licensing process.

Deacons and pastors are “rostered” ministers, called by the whole church and serving in our synod in a 6261 Ministry Community. Both deacons and pastors have completed a seminary-level theological degree with equivalent training and candidacy rostering requirements.

Lay Ministers are licensed by the Bishop to perform certain duties within specific congregations of 6261 Ministry Communities. These duties may include:

- Praying for the 6261 Ministry Community, its congregations, its surrounding community, and its ministries
- Leading Worship services, including preaching
- Leading Bible studies
- Leading and coordinating small groups
- Visiting those in the hospital, the homebound, and others who request a visit
- Potential for licensed Sacramental authorization in special circumstances

WHAT IS “PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES”

Founded in 1989, **Partners for Sacred Places** is the only nonsectarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to sound stewardship and active community use of older sacred places across America. They provide capital campaign training and fundraising strategies, along with technical assistance, and grants to congregations and other local organizations across the United States.

Thanks to their role as a nonsectarian national nonprofit, Partners brings a unique perspective to the vital role that sacred places play as both houses of worship and as civic assets, as well as the potential of congregations to enliven and serve their larger communities.

As historic places of worship face ever greater challenges from diminishing membership and resources, Partners has responded with a family of tools to strengthen and protect these important community assets.

Partners offers in-person and remote training and support to congregations and others with older religious properties. Their signature program, New Dollars/New Partners, has helped leaders from over 1,000 sacred places build their capacity, form new community partnerships, and raise new funds from outside their congregations. More pertinent to our needs, Partners also work with congregations who need to divest themselves of their buildings to transition these spaces so that they will continue to serve the community.

New Jerusalem Council members and others are currently studying Partners’ *Transitioning Older and Historic Sacred Places: Community-Minded Approaches for Congregations and Judicatories*. Copies are available online or in the office. This book provides guidance and support to congregations as they consider transition of their properties. The Guide is a recognition that many religious buildings will be transitioned out of religious use in the years to come as congregations throughout the United States struggle to sustain themselves while also caring for aging buildings. The Guide is also a reference for faith and civic leaders who are eager for access to a resource that lays out a civic-minded approach to religious property—founded on the principle that older houses of worship have public value and are a meaningful presence in our communities.



OLEY FAIR

Many thanks to those who helped serve french fries at the Oley Fair on September 21.

From the cup of mid-October the spice of life is poured, and with the zest of autumn’s noontide comes a welcomed sense of rest.

—Anonymous



- 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 (29 years)
- 12 Jason and Elizabeth Keller (10 years)
- 13 Denny and Sara Jane Beshore (50 years)
- 27 Jarrett and Amy Hahn (5 years)



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Winfield “Ted” Eshbach who passed away on Monday, September 18, 2023 at Grand View Hospital in Sellersville. A funeral service was held at Walbert Funeral Home, Fleetwood, on Wednesday, September 27, with Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Sassman officiating. Burial was in Zion Lehigh Church Cemetery, Alburdis.

As we reach out to comfort and support Betty, we ourselves remember the hope in which we live, that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and those who believe in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Contributions may be made in Ted’s memory to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation, P.O. Box 781352, Philadelphia, PA 19178-1352.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS

Altar Flower Sponsors:

- October 1 – *sponsor needed*
- October 8 – *sponsor needed*
- October 15 – Todd Wagaman and family
- October 22 – Anonymous
- October 29 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors:

- October 1 – *sponsor needed*
- October 8 – *sponsor needed*
- October 15 – Korinne Hotzman
- October 22 – *sponsor needed*
- October 29 – Todd Wagaman and family

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:

sponsor needed

Altar Guild Volunteer(s):

volunteer needed

Communion Bread Sponsor:

- October 1 – *sponsor needed*
- October 29 – *sponsor needed*

Communion Set-up Volunteer:

- October 1 – *volunteer needed*
- October 29 – *volunteer needed*

Readers:

- October 1 – Ty Rissmiller
- October 8 – Gladys Kline
- October 15 – Cindy Rissmiller
- October 22 – Sara Jane Beshore
- October 29 – Kenneth Keck

Councilperson(s) for the Month:

Sherrie Carl

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

It’s intriguing to think of people in Bible times experiencing the same cycle of seasons we do. Which of these books *doesn’t* mention autumn?

- A. Matthew
- B. Jeremiah
- C. Proverbs
- D. Jude

Answer: A (See Proverbs 20:4; ESV; Jeremiah 5:24; Jude 1:12.)

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Myles Angstadt, Erma Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Gabriele Sanders, and Dorothy Turner.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT:
Members: Holly Allen, Family and friends of Ted Eshbach, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Brian Keller, Diane Keller, Forrest Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Lloyd Moyer, and Horace Rothermel.

Friends of the congregation: Charlie Ackerman, Brad Auge, Sr., Brad Auge, Jr., Steve Beck, Sharon Bennett, Jason Beshore, Darlene Bogert, Earl Derr, John Drumheller, Jennifer Engle, Alice Epler, Dawson Freed (military), Karen Gossert, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Debra Kenny, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Julia Lombardo, Emma Loose, Joe M., Vivian Reist, Jeffrey Schloder, Arlan Schwoyer, Patricia Sigfried, Jean Smith, Shawn Spatz, Michael Stevens, Robert Taylor, Johnathan Wagner, Tim Walck, Leticia Weaver, Richard Weller, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Jason, Kim, Lynn, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for: peace in the world, and particularly in the Ukraine and eastern Europe; all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters, especially those in Puerto Rico; 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 racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, Johnson-Agiri Family, Mary Kring, Leilani Rodriquez, Andrew S., Tierney Schmeer, Donna Schwoyer, Lesley Wegman, and Linda Wegman.



**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

August 31, 2023

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 18,776.20
Thrivent	11,047.97
Checking	5,472.87
Youth	412.76
Fidelity	34,687.23
Cash Reserve	9,426.07
Mission Investment Fund	11,697.83
Local Care	<u>2,231.27</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 93,752.20</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **August 31, 2022** \$ 131,475.41

August 2023 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	Income Required	Actual Income	
<u>Income Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,860.00	\$ 2,554.82	\$ (7,305.18)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2023
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

JOY IN THE WORD OF GOD

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther





The **Brandywine Food Pantry** is committed to relieving hunger through the acquisition and distribution of food to individuals and families from the Brandywine/Topton area. The Food Pantry is generously supported by the churches, civic groups, schools, businesses, and individuals from our local community.

The **Brandywine Food Pantry needs your help!** Our local Food Pantry is in great need of personal care items (body wash, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, individually-wrapped toothbrushes, etc.), paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue), and household supplies (dish soap, laundry detergent). Local underprivileged patrons, who come to the Food Pantry once a month, appreciate it very much when the Pantry has personal care items, paper products, and household supplies for them. Currently, the Pantry is only providing food for our patrons. Please bring your donations of personal care items, paper products and/or household supplies to your church on a Sunday morning. You can also drop off your donations at the Food Pantry, which is located at St. Peter's UCC in Topton, on the first 3 Mondays of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the first 3 Tuesdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please feel free to contact Jill Shade, the Pantry Administrator at 484-861-7117 or brandywinefoodpantry@gmail.com if you have any questions about the Brandywine Food Pantry's desperate need for personal care items, paper products, and household supplies. Monetary donations are accepted as well. Please make checks payable to **Brandywine Food Pantry** and mail them to the **Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter's UCC, 122 W. Franklin Street, Topton, PA 19562.**

The **Brandywine Food Pantry** is open to area residents by appointment only on the first three Tuesdays and the third Thursday of the month from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (the last appointment is at 12:30 p.m.). We also have evening hours (4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Please call the Food Pantry's new number, **484-861-7117**, to schedule an appointment.

Also, please feel free to call the Pantry's new number if you have any questions about the **Brandywine Food Pantry**.

Thank you very much to the members of the local churches, civic groups, schools, businesses, and individuals from our local community for your continued support of the **Brandywine Food Pantry!**

The Brandywine Food Pantry is always in need of the following items:

Canned fruit: fruit cup, mandarin oranges, sliced peaches, pears, pineapple, etc.

Canned items: (especially those with meat) Beef stew, chicken a la king, chicken breast, chili, ham, Spam, tuna

Condiments: ketchup, mustard, pickles

Hot drinks: coffee (regular), hot chocolate, tea

Extras: jelly, marshmallow creme, peanut butter

Baking items: cooking oil, vinegar

Dry goods: dry milk, evaporated milk

Cereal: Hot or cold, oatmeal (regular and instant)

Gluten free and/or sugar free items

Paper products: paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue

Personal care items: bar soap, hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, personal hygiene items (hairbrushes, combs, individually wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.)

Cleaning and disinfecting products: dish soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant products, etc.)

Paper products, personal care items and cleaning supplies, and disinfectant products are no longer purchased by the Food Pantry. Please consider donating these items.

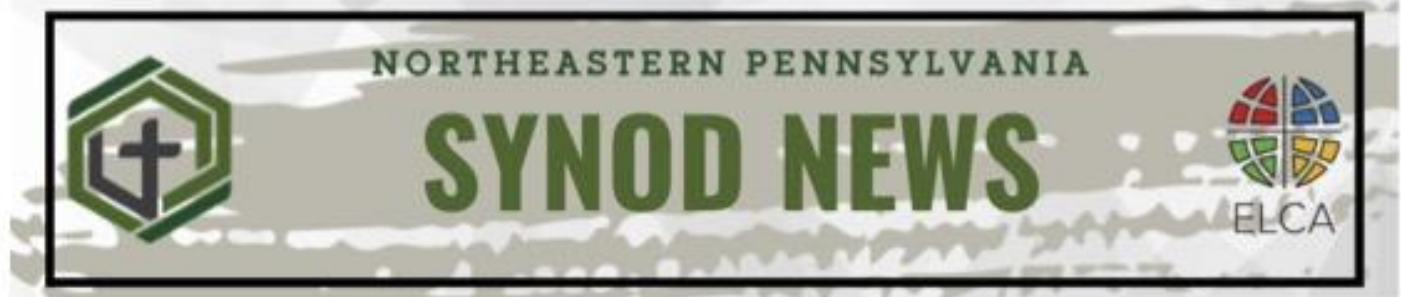
***** Please check expiration dates on donated food products.**

The Brandywine Food Pantry cannot accept expired food products.

Statistic summary for 2023 (January – July):

2022 Average - 28 families served monthly
2023 Average - 45 families served monthly
62% average increase over 2022

2022 Average - 70 people served monthly
2023 Average - 111 people served monthly
63% average increase over 2022



MISSION: GAINING STRENGTH, GOING BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE AND GROWING YOUNG IN THE PROCESS

In our journey of faith, we often hear about the transformative power of mission. Mission is not just a buzzword; it is the heartbeat of our church. It is the force that propels us forward, enabling us to grow younger in spirit, gain strength as a community, and go beyond the boundaries of life and death. In this newsletter article, we will explore the profound importance of mission in our lives as individuals and as a church family.

One of the remarkable aspects of **mission** is its ability to rejuvenate our spirits and keep our faith nourished. When we engage in meaningful outreach, extend a helping hand to those in need, and share the gospel with others, we are infused with the energy of youthful enthusiasm, a childlike faith that brings us back to the main thing: Jesus. Missional work often challenges us, taking us out of our comfort zones and pushing us to rely on God's strength, leading to a deeper and more vibrant connection with our faith. By embracing a missional life, we are transported back to a faith that's continually renewing our commitment to Christ and consequently, our community.

Christ's Church is like a mighty tree with deep roots, a strong trunk, and branches that stretch far and wide. Mission is the lifeblood that flows through our spiritual tree, strengthening its core and expanding its reach. When we unite in the pursuit of a common mission, we grow closer as a community. We learn to rely on each other's strengths, support one another in times of challenge, and celebrate our victories together. In this process, our church gains resilience and vitality, better equipped to weather the storms of life. With our synod's new focus on 6-2-6-1 we will see the lifeblood of our churches expand and grow, nourishing not just out space in time but beyond.

Mission work takes us beyond the limits of this earthly existence. It reminds us of the eternal perspective of our faith. When we share the hope and love of Christ with others, we are sowing seeds that transcend the boundaries of time and mortality. These seeds of faith have the potential to flourish long after we have left this world. Through mission, we participate in a legacy of faith that extends beyond our own lifetimes, carrying the message of salvation from generation to generation.

Mission is not merely a task; it is a calling, a privilege, and a source of abundant blessings. It helps us grow young individually and collectively, gain strength as a community, and go beyond the limitations of this life to embrace the promise of eternal life in Christ. Let us continue to be a Church known for our unwavering commitment to living missionally, in all we do let us weigh our values, so all we do leads to progress - It is through mission that we will thrive, make a lasting impact, and experience the fullness of God's love.

As we embark on this journey of mission together, may we remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Let these words guide our mission and inspire us to grow, gain strength, and go beyond death to life in Christ.





SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.



A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

R G S Z M P N B T L W

V E V I B G R N V R

I V N V N Y V I B L F

R M Z O O N B

K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O

L U B L F R Z O D Z B H

K I Z B D R G S Q L B

K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><u>18th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -World Communion Sunday -Pastor Roger Timm Supply Pastor 8:00am-2:00pm-Christ Mertz Blood Drive</p> <p>Pastor - Vacation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>Pastor - Vacation</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm-Theology with a Twist, Kutztown Tavern</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am-Coloring Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am-2:00pm-Fall Craft Show, Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville</p>
<p>8</p> <p><u>19th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:15am-Worship -Fellowship after worship 3:00-7:00pm-Fall Festival, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>Korinne - Vacation</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00am-1:00pm-Helping Harvest Food Distribution at Brandywine Heights IS/MS</p> <p>Korinne - Vacation</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>Korinne - Vacation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Tipton</p> <p>Korinne - Vacation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton</p> <p>Korinne - Vacation</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot</p>
<p>15</p> <p><u>20th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:15am-Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Tipton 2:00pm-Reading Philharmonic Orchestra, Brandywine Heights MS</p>
<p>22</p> <p><u>21st Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:15am-Worship -Pastor Ruth to preach at Trinity, Tipton -Fellowship after worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Tipton</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.</p> <p>7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Tipton</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><u>Reformation Sunday</u> 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Pastor Ruth to preach at Trinity, Tipton</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Meeting with all church councils at Henry Auditorium with Deacon Kat Tigerman to discuss 6261 Ministry</p>	<p>31</p>				