

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net

Website: <http://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

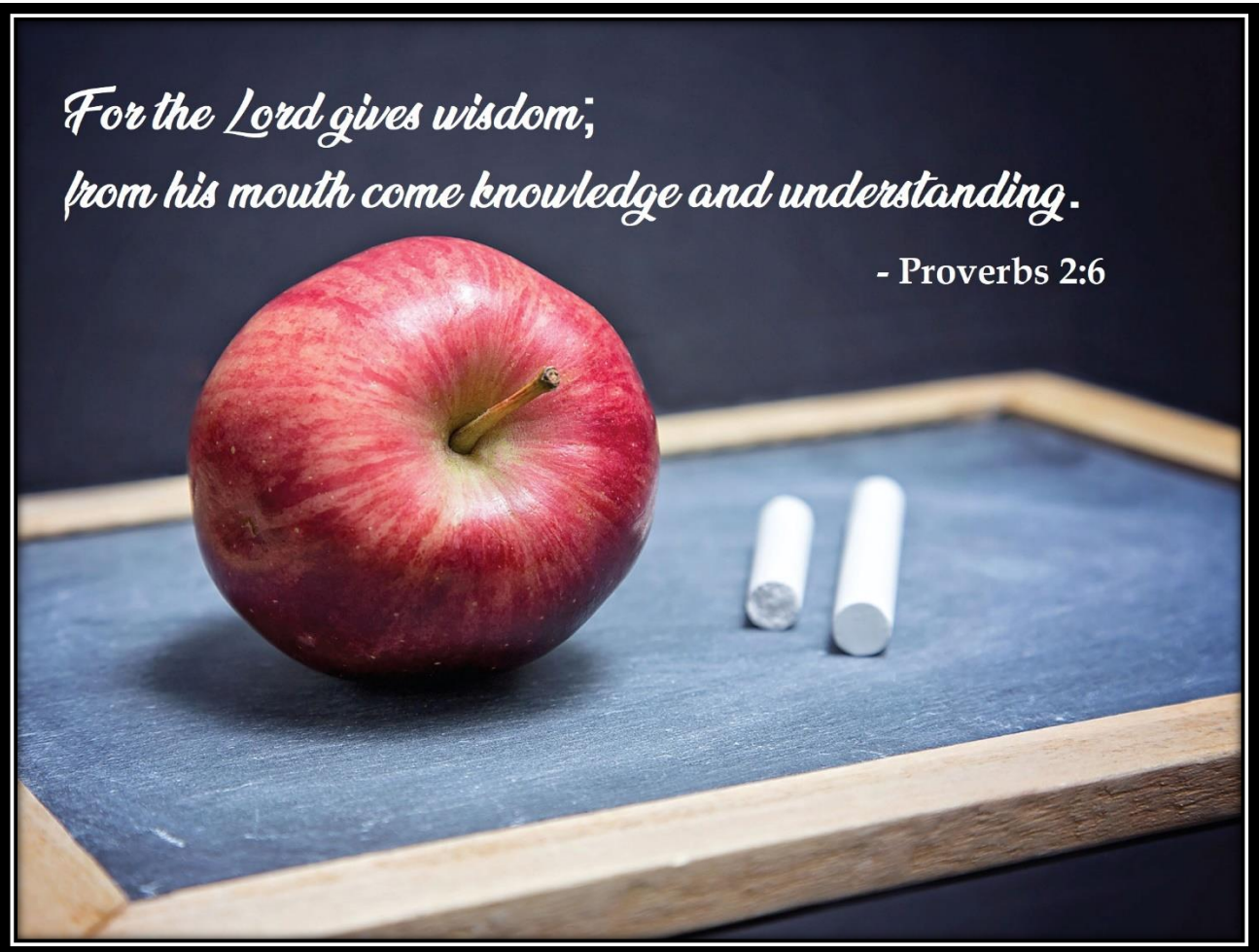
Office Phone: 610.682.6064

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

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

*For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

- Proverbs 2:6



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.*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

September is often a month of mixed emotions.

On the first Monday of the month we celebrate Labor Day and remember the efforts and contributions of our workers. We honor this with a federal holiday, a time for most workers to have a day off, a day always tacked on to a weekend to make it feel like an even a longer break. People often have mixed emotions about the coming of Labor Day. For many of us it has become a kind of “last hurrah” as we mark the end of summer vacations and head back into the routines of daily life during fall, winter, and spring.

Going back to school is often a time when children and teachers grieve the loss of summer’s freedom, yet are excited about the new things they will encounter in the coming school year. Even if we are not going back to school, the fall often brings a return to routines which some find can be both a comfort and a burden. Many of us are not ready for the cooler weather of fall which heralds the coming of winter, though at the same time we welcome relief from the heat of summer and look forward to the beauty of colorful leaves.

As we prepare this message, there is *so* much to share that we hope it will not be overwhelming. We hope that instead what you read about here will not only energize you and inspire hope and anticipation, but that you will remember to take time to breathe, rest, relax and enjoy the life and opportunities God has given you. We hope that you will remember that you are defined by Whose you are, not by what you do.

So, let’s jump right in and share what’s going on and coming up, the opportunities given to us to receive and share God’s bounty, especially those where we can share the Good News of God’s love made clear to us in the life, death, resurrection and promises of Jesus Christ.

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 August 19:

- The slate tiles on the roof have been replaced.
- 5 more Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnals have been ordered and received.
- Thanks to a Thrivent Grant, we now have copies of "The Invitational Christian," a booklet which members of the congregation will be studying over the next several months. (More about this booklet on page 5.)

SEPTEMBER SIGN-UP SHEETS

A Flower sponsor is needed for September 22, Bulletin sponsors are needed for September 1 and 8, and an Altar Guild volunteer. Greeters are needed for September 8 and 15. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex if you are able to help.

2020 BUDGET INFORMATION

Just a reminder to have your year 2020 budget information to the Finance Committee by the beginning of this month. Thank you!

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on **Monday, September 2**, for the Labor Day holiday.

SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING WITH BISHOP ZEISER TO DISCUSS THE ELCA RESOLUTION TO BECOME A SANCTUARY CHURCH BODY, Bern Lutheran Church, Bern Township, 3:30 p.m. (see article on page 5)

BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study on **Thursday, September 5, at 10:00 a.m.** Other dates to be announced.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Representatives of area churches continue work on ways we can cooperate in mission. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 9, at 4:00 p.m.** at Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers. Let Pastor Ruth know if you are interested in being part of these exciting discussions.

CHOIR REHEARSALS TO BEGIN

The Bell Choir will begin rehearsals on **Tuesday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m.** and every Tuesday thereafter. We would love to have a few more ringers. You do not have to be able to read music as the notes you play will be marked specifically for you. You do not need to be committed to attending all rehearsals. It is a fun time, so please consider helping to ring praises to God. If you have any questions, please see Faye or Sara Jane.



The Adult Choir will resume rehearsals on **Tuesday, September 10, at 7:30 p.m.** We are also in need of a few more voices, so if singing is your passion, please consider joining us for a joyful time of singing and fellowship. If you have any questions, please see Sara Jane or Faye.

NEW JERUSALEM FALL FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for our 2nd Fall Festival to be held on **Saturday, September 14, from 4:00-8:00 p.m.** Bring along lawn chairs to hear great country and bluegrass music performed by The Majestics Band from 5:00-8:00 p.m. There will be chili, hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks, desserts, and beverages for sale. There will also be a Cake Walk between band sets. The event is free and held rain or shine. Donations will be accepted to be split between repaying what we spent on the parking lot and the WHY Club (Wellness and Health for Youth) for children that attend Brandywine Heights Middle School. Anyone willing to donate food for the festival is asked to please sign up on the sheets in the narthex or call the church office. More information about the WHY Club is available on page 7.

FAITH FORMATION EVENT – September 15

Bring a lunch to enjoy after worship along with a Bible story. Mark your calendar for these future Faith Formation events: October 20, November 17, and December 8, starting at noon.

INTERESTED IN VISITING A SYNAGOGUE FOR A WORSHIP SERVICE, please contact Pastor Ruth.

NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD ICE CREAM TOUR

In preparation for next June's election of a new bishop and important decisions about the mission and future directions of our synod, Bishop Zeiser and Synod Vice President Kristen Weiner, will be hosting an ice cream tour at various areas around the synod so that members of our congregations can learn about the process and share concerns. The two opportunities for fun, fellowship and conversation closest to us are **Sunday, September 15, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at Crystal Spring Farm, Schnecksville, 3550 Bellview Road, and **Sunday, October 6, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** at The Nesting Box Market and Creamery, 230 Snyder Road, Kempton, and **6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Way-Har Farms, 7701 Bernville Road, Bernville. You don't have to stay the whole time, "come when you can, leave when you must."



FABRIC SORTING – September 18, 4:30–6 pm

Help sort out the abundant supply of fabric we have for making quilts, dresses for girls, and walker bags. This will help us be more efficient with our projects. See Betty Eshbach or Pastor Ruth.

OLEY VALLEY FAIR

New Jerusalem will be serving french fries at the Oley Fair on **Thursday, September 19**. Your help is needed! There will be 3 shifts: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Eight (8) volunteers are needed for each shift. If you can volunteer any time to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. For more information, see Ty Rissmiller. Last year our share of the proceeds was \$700 which we put in the parking lot fund.

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October 2019 newsletter is **Sunday, September 22**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

PASTOR RUTH will be out of town September 25-29 and taking vacation from September 30 to October 6. During this time, pastoral care will be provided by Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman. He can be reached at 610.657.0269.

BREAKFAST WITH OUR FIREFIGHTERS

Saturday morning, **October 12, 8:30–10:30 a.m.** firefighters and their families from the Lyons Fire

Company will join members of the congregation for breakfast. This is a chance for us to get to know, thank and encourage these vital members of our community. Plan now to attend. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex or call the church office to let us know you are coming. There is also a sign-up sheet for donations and volunteer help for the meal.

ADULT FORUM – October 27

Essential Decisions, Documents, and Arrangements. Attorney Keller Kline will lead us in discussion following worship. Refreshments will be available. Join us for the first session in a series of forums about important issues for adults to consider that is being planned by our Faith Formation Committee.

Future topics will include:

1. Essential Financial Planning
2. Health and Medical Planning – health directives, advanced directives, etc.
3. Housing options as life changes
4. Coping and assisting with varieties of grief
5. End of life as we know it celebrations: funerals, memorials, and more

Friends are welcome.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

We welcome Justin Keller and Lilly Lambert as full participants at the Lord's Supper. Carson and Logan Seip will soon be preparing to join us as well.

Jesus never specified an age at which people should be first communed. Some of us didn't celebrate our First Communion until we were confirmed. Others received instruction and joined in the sacrament during middle school. But Jesus never specified how old or how much a person had to "understand" before joining in the celebration.

The Lutheran Church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. Sometimes we say Confession is also a sacrament. What are the criteria we use to determine whether something is a sacrament? Did Jesus tell us to do it? Does it include a physical element? Is it connected with God's promise which give faith?

In the Lutheran church the time to start receiving communion is determined by a conversation between the pastor, the person desiring to receive communion whether this be a child or adult, and, in the case of a child, with the parents or sponsors involved.

First Communion normally occurs after children can eat and drink and can start to respond to the gift of Christ. However, no matter what age a person starts receiving the bread and wine, participation is always to be accompanied by catechesis (instruction) appropriate to that person's age and abilities. This catechesis is to continue through the *life* of the believer and is to emphasize the sacrament as a gift to help us grow in faith in participation in the community. Being prepared to receive the sacrament is not simply knowledge or intellectual understanding. Rather, it is trust in God's promises given in the Lord's Supper: "This is my body, this is my blood, given for you for the forgiveness of sin."



Parents interested in having their children or youth prepare for First Communion or Confirmation, please contact Pastor Ruth.

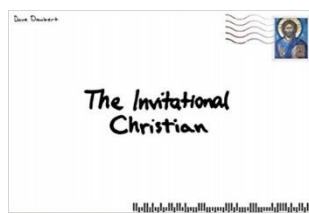
SANCTUARY CHURCH BODY

On August 7, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, WI adopted a resolution declaring the ELCA to be a sanctuary church body. What does this mean? It means continuing the many ways our individual congregations already assist immigrant families and exploring other ways we can respond to Jesus' call to serve strangers in our midst who are in need. It does *not* direct congregations to break the law. Join Bishop Zeiser to discuss the resolution. Copies of a letter from Bishop Zeiser and Bishop Eaton, the resolution, and explanations of the resolution are available as inserts in this newsletter or from the church office.

HELP US BECOME A MORE "INVITATIONAL CHURCH"

Pastor Dave Daubert's exciting little booklet is now available for those who would like to learn more about how to become a more inviting congregation.

In his introduction and first chapter he explains how "the mainline church has relied on its social position to bring people to it. The result has been less emphasis on discipleship and all of the related things that disciples do. Church membership has become one hobby among many for a high percentage of our members. Often, it isn't even their most important hobby." "[C]ongregations that



believe that faith in Christ changes lives and that participation in Christian community matters, will do well to train their members to invite others in." The question is, "why [don't people who are more dynamic and vibrant in their faith. . .invite others to join them?]"

Why aren't we more inviting? How can we as a congregation and individuals learn to more effectively extend an invitation for others to join us and be more welcoming when they take the risk to join us for worship or another event? These are the questions we as a congregation, in various settings, including worship times, will be discussing over the next months.

If you would like a copy of this booklet, please see Pastor Ruth or call the church office.

GLOBAL MISSION UPDATE

The ELCA is a church that *accompanies* other churches throughout the world by forming relationships which become the channels through which we support evangelism ministries and have enabled us to touch thousands of lives. Outreach and evangelism look different in different contexts and are expressed through various programs and settings.

Examples of this outreach include supporting theological education and leadership formation in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result, 14 new pastors were ordained in El Salvador in 2019 alone. The program also supports more than 220 missionaries in 40 countries around the world. These men and women walk alongside and support evangelism programs led by dozens of companion churches.

Another exciting example of our outreach is the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, a one-year faith formation and international service learning opportunity for young adults, ages 21-29. These young adults serve alongside companion church bodies and organizations in one of eleven country programs around the world in a transformative, cross-cultural journey of service.

Watch for more updates in upcoming newsletters.

"Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."

—Maya Angelou

Thank You

Dear friends at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Please accept our most heartfelt appreciation for your gift of \$1,040 to Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA). Your donation creates opportunities that can change lives for generations to come. Since 1865, donations to OBA have funded a wide range of projects in Tanzania, Kenya, and Madagascar.

Thousands of people have gained access to education and healthcare thanks to OBA donors like you! Your generous gift brings hope to those who have few opportunities in their lives. Thank you friends at New Jerusalem. You are changing lives!

In service to the people of Africa, - *Jason Bergmann*, Executive Director



Some of the 1,500 Olchoki Students

Our total donation of \$2,540 paid for one of three stoves which now provide one hot meal a day to every child.

NEWS & EVENTS in the Community

READY.SET.READ! PROGRAM TUTORS

Help make a difference in a child's life! Volunteers are needed to tutor 2nd grade students who are struggling with reading at Oley Valley Elementary on Thursdays from 10:30-11:15 a.m. and Kutztown Elementary on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. No previous teaching experience is required. This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering 1 hour per week during the 2019-2020 school year.

Current background clearances are required prior to assignment. Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way by phone at 610.685.4574 or by email at darbyw@uwberks.org.

BIBLE STUDY AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MERTZTOWN – Wednesday Evenings at 6 beginning September 4th. 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).

JOURNEYS THROUGH GRIEF

Grief is a confusing, tangled and painful process of discovering how to live, feel, and heal in the midst of coming to terms with loss. In these sessions held on 6 consecutive Tuesdays, **September 3-October 8, from 6-7:30 p.m.** at St. John's Lutheran Church, Kutztown, you will learn about the stages of grief and explore your feelings about the loss you have experienced. To register, contact Bereavement Coordinator, Sylvia Havlish at 610.395.5045.

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 **September 17, 2019** – *Letting Go: What to Do with My Loved One's Possessions*. 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.

CROP HUNGER WALK – October 13, 2019

The CROP Hunger Walk is a great fellowship and service event for families, youth groups, adult groups, and congregations. Twenty-five of the funds raised goes to the community in which the walk is held. The remaining 75% is used by Church World Service for disaster relief and development assistance. For more information, to register, or to donate, please go to www.crophungerwalk.org.

THEY ASKED, WE RESPONDED

Recently Reading Berks Council of Churches noted that the chaplain at the Berks County Correctional Facility requested Lutheran Prayer Books because they had run out. When we checked, we were able to get 100 copies for free. These will soon be taken to the prison. A copy of the book is on the table in the narthex.

WHAT IS THE WHY CLUB?

The Brandywine Heights Community Task Force established the Wellness and Health for Youth (WHY) club for children who attend the middle school. The club includes activities and supports the surrounding themes of service, mindfulness, wellness, physical and mental fitness, and character and career education. Activities include team building, homework time, cooking and baking, and much more. These help students develop the academic and social skills needed for a successful and healthy future. This free program meets 4 days a week, 2:30-5:30. Total budget for the year, which includes supplies as well as a salary for a Program Leader and a Program Assistant is \$11,300. If you know of a middle school student who can benefit from the program, please contact the school. Students do not need to attend every day nor for the full 3 hours.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Tower Health at Home program is in need of hospice volunteers to brighten the lives of their patients by providing a supportive presence through companionship, conversation, activity, helping with errands and more. They can also provide administrative support by filing, copying, entering data, making phone calls, etc. Volunteers do not administer medications nor provide hands-on care. Scheduling is very flexible.

For more information or to volunteer call 1-855-843-8627, ext. 3115, or contact them by email at THAHVolunteer@towerhealth.org.

Did
you
know?

PEARL

The pearl is a symbol of the surpassing value of the kingdom of God, based on Jesus' parable in Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV): "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."



2	Dawn Wartzenuft
10	Larry Dey
10	Regina Kohl
11	Virginia Guinther
16	Dorothy Turner
17	Alan Carl
17	Taylor Cleaver
17	Shirley Hertzog
20	Ty Rissmiller
21	Michael Barlet
21	Madison Cleaver
24	Andrew Musser
25	Elaine Seip
25	Kenneth Wiltrout
28	Carrie Paige Lambert
28	Brooke Wengert
30	Ronald Herman



6	David and Dawn Wartzenuft (22 years)
9	Randy and Luann Bennecoff (47 years)
10	Gary and Vikie Seyfert (14 years)
20	Ronald and Wilma Herman (44 years)

"The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent."

—Sam Levenson

Happy



STEWARDSHIP OF OUR INTELLIGENCE AND GIFTS

Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning. – Proverbs 9:9

This month millions of children, youth and adults are back in the classroom for another year of education. At K-12 schools, trade academies, colleges and universities they're training their brains for higher thinking, deepening their knowledge and learning new skills.

These students are not merely drawing on their God-given intelligence and potential, they're actually developing them. What great stewardship of life gifts!

What about the rest of us, we who have ended our formal education? The sad truth is that many of us stop actively learning new things. It's unfortunate, too, because the amazing brains and bodies God has given us have virtually unlimited capacity for learning, growing and developing.

No, we all can't be a Stephen Hawking, Meryl Streep or Michael Jordan, but we can always sharpen our brainpower, express ourselves in the arts and develop our motor skills. In the process, we enrich and expand our lives, and that can lead to greater fulfillment, confidence and opportunity to grow into the fullness that God designs for us. Here are some ideas:

Read. Whether it's biographies, who-done-its, sci-fi, poetry, literature or history, reading not only teaches us things, but it also exercises our brainpower. Start with a commitment to read a book (or two) a month.

Take a class. Many community centers, churches, libraries and senior citizen centers offer enrichment classes on a variety of topics. Learn photography, or conversational Spanish, or quilting. Go deeper: Your local community college may let you "audit" a class for an affordable fee.

Listen or watch. Delve into subjects that interest you by listening to podcasts or watching YouTube videos. Some colleges offer entire lecture series free via podcast or video.

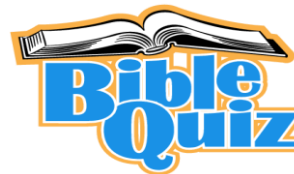
Attend a lecture. Authors, poets, politicians, scientists and entertainers often give public talks at colleges, town halls and other venues.

Write a poem. Or paint a picture, or take a photograph, or pick up a musical instrument. The arts provide a wonderful outlet for our creative selves.

As we watch our children, youth and adults go back to school, let's join them in a commitment to developing the intelligence, skills and abilities that God has given us. It's good stewardship of our lives.

—Rob Blezard

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What number fits in all the blanks to reveal God's instructions to Joshua about the city of Jericho?

Israelite warriors, led by _____ priests blowing _____ ram's-horn trumpets for _____ days, would march around the city once a day, except for the last day, when they would march around it _____ times; then the walls of Jericho would fall.

- A. one
- B. three
- C. five
- D. seven



Answer: D (see Joshua 6:1-5.)

A LITTLE BACK-TO-SCHOOL HUMOR

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...
... an ice cream man? – Sundae school
... a giant? – High school
... a surfer? – Boarding school
... King Arthur? – Knight school

Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Math teacher: A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

Student: In jail!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Donated items in need right now: jelly, ketchup, mayonnaise, soups of all kinds, coffee, fruit juices, Chef Boyardee-style canned items (beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), chili, Hamburger Helper, snacks (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), flour, sugar, oatmeal, breakfast cereal, pancake syrup and mix, cooking oil, beef stew, canned meat (tuna, chicken, or Spam), Manwich or sloppy joe mix, instant rice, pasta or rice sides, ramen noodles, shampoo, bar soap, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

The pantry is always in need of the following items:

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

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

Canned Goods: Chef Boyardee-style canned foods, 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

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

Baking Items: cake or brownie mix, frosting

Breakfast Food: pop tarts, pancake mix,

Paper Products: tissues, toilet paper, paper towels

Personal Care Items: body wash or bar soap, 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. We welcome all donations of food, personal items, or cash. Checks may be made out to “**Brandywine Food Pantry,**” and mailed to **Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 122 W. Franklin St., Tipton, PA, 19562.**

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 1:30 p.m. For appointments, call 610-682-7633. Call either Tuesday or Thursday or leave a message with your contact information.

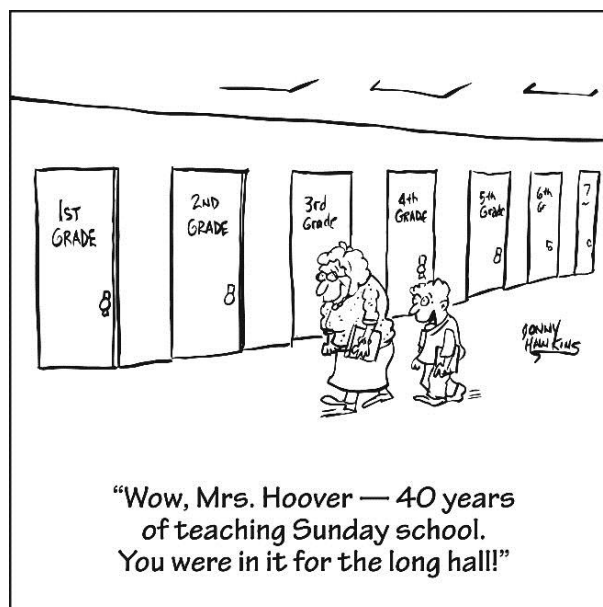
LABORS OF LOVE

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, “It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God.” As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer’s end but in celebrating the ways nearly all “duties and labors of life” can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they’ll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in “spiritual union with God”: cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Statement of Accounts**

July 31, 2019

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 25,526.58
Thrivent	8,067.55
Checking	6,128.52
Youth	405.11
Fidelity	120,115.33
Cash Reserve	19,729.25
Mission Investment	11,401.75
Local Care	1,753.75
Total	<u>\$ 193,127.84</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **July 31, 2018** \$ 207,340.85

July 2019 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,077.08	\$ 6,288.00	\$ (2,789.08)

*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
\$ 27,481.54 Funds Received to offset expenses

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Leon Moyer, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Amanda Herman, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Penny Keller, Phillip Litschke, Sheila Long, Roy Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Bradley 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, Randy Dreibelbis, Jennifer Engle, Eric Fox, Becky Graeff, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Corinne Hersh, Sue Kerny, Angie Kistler, Anh La, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Phillip and Nancy Meck, Rodney Muthard, Duane Petersheim, Ruth Ramsey, Serita, Leticia Weaver, Diane Whitehead, Althea Young, and Pat.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for our nation, our president, congress and judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end for threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world; areas enduring disaster; and migrants and refugees.

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



“Spread love everywhere you go; to show love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes our offering something beautiful to God.”

– Mother Teresa



THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September

*	1	10:00 AM	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (G) – Holy Communion
	8	10:00 AM	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (G)
*	15	10:00 AM	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (G) ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
	22	10:00 AM	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (G)
*	29	10:00 AM	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (G)

October

	6	10:00 AM	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (G) – Holy Communion
*	13	10:00 AM	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (G)
*	20	10:00 AM	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (G) ▪ Vocation Sunday ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
	27	10:00 AM	Reformation Sunday (R) – Holy Communion ▪ Adult Forum at 12:00 noon

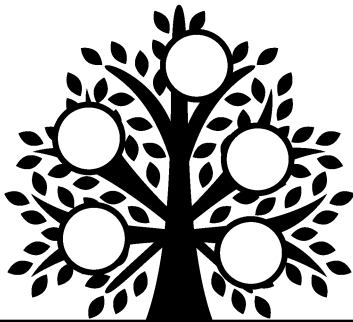
November

*	3	10:00 AM	All Saints' Sunday (W) – Holy Communion
	10	10:00 AM	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost (G) ▪ Stewardship Sunday ▪ Congregational Meeting after worship
*	17	10:00 AM	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (G) ▪ Faith Formation Event after worship
	24	10:00 AM	Christ the King Sunday (W) – Holy Communion
	27	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service (G) – Holy Communion

FELLOWSHIP DATES:

(*) Fellowship after worship





GROWING generations

Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

What you need:

- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

What you do:

1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you're glad to be in their family tree.



Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.

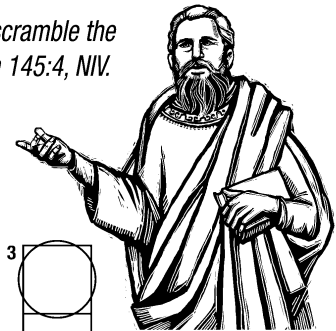


ACROSS

2. David's grandfather
5. Jacob's grandfather
6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN

1. Judah's grandmother
3. Joseph's grandfather
4. Solomon's grandfather
7. Jesse's grandmother



One G _ N _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obed, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
9/1	Gladys Kline	Ken Keck	Dale Schwoyer	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
9/8	TBA	Cindy Rissmiller	Larry and Faye Dey	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>
9/15	TBA	Gladys Kline	Dale Schwoyer	Katie Ellen Cleaver
9/22	Josh Keck	Ken Keck	<i>(sponsor needed)</i>	Gladys Kline
9/29	Denny Beshore	Dawn Wengert	Amy Hahn	Jeff and Dawn Wengert

ALTAR GUILD: *(volunteer needed)*

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Jeff and Dawn Wengert

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Elaine Seip

COMMUNION BREAD: 9/1 – Gladys Kline

COMMUNION SET-UP: 9/1 – Sara Jane Beshore

COUNCILPERSON: Ty Rissmiller

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship	2 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day	3	4 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 3:30pm-Meeting with Bishop Zeiser at Bern Lutheran Church, Bernville	5 10:00am-Bible Study	6 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	7
8 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Stewardship Meeting after worship Grandparent's Day	9 10:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 4:00pm-Congregational Conversations, Christ DeLong UCC, Bowers 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Mtg.	10 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	11 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	12	13 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	14 4:00-8:00pm-New Jerusalem Fall Festival
15 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Fellowship after worship 12:00pm-Faith Formation 7:00-9:00pm-NEPS Ice Cream Tour, Crystal Spring Farm, Schnecksville	16 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	18 11:30am-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 4:30pm-Fabric Sorting	19 Oley Fair	20 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	21
22 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Newsletter Deadline	23 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Fall Begins	24 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal	25 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Pastor Ruth out of town until Sept. 29	26	27 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	28
29 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ▪ Fellowship after worship	30 12:45-1:45pm-AA Mtg. Pastor Ruth on vacation until Oct. 6					

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ZEISER

On Wednesday, August 7, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, WI adopted a resolution declaring the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be a sanctuary church body. You can find the entire resolution at the end of this message.

There were 26 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod voting members at the assembly, which was composed of approximately 950 voting members. It was clear during discussion of the then-proposed resolution that adoption would be significant in the life of this church.



Voting members from synods directly impacted by the presence of immigrants on their territories, as well as others, spoke about ways congregations already assist immigrant families. That assistance takes many forms: provision of food, clothing, and other essentials; ESL classes; support through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and (a relatively new ELCA ministry) Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO*). I believe that these testimonies had a strong impact upon voting members.

It seems to me that voting members were also influenced by those who reminded the assembly that the Lutheran witness in the U.S. was begun by immigrants, namely Germans, Swedes, Africans, Norwegians, Slovaks, and many others. Many among those diverse groups were persecuted, oppressed, and marginalized in the course of their daily lives.

So, the declaration grows out of our self-understanding as an immigrant church, and it affirms ELCA ministries to migrants and refugees already taking place in border states. It is about Jesus' call to serve strangers in our midst who are in need (think: parable of the Prodigal Son). This declaration does not direct congregations to break the law. Some would say it this way: the declaration is descriptive, not prescriptive.

I have arranged three meetings on September 4 at different locations across the synod territory so that we can discuss the resolution together. You are welcome to attend any one of the meetings: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dallas (10:00 a.m.); Lutheran Center, Schoenersville (1:00 p.m.); Bern Lutheran Church, Bern Township (3:30 p.m.).

With gratitude for your faithful ministry,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel R. Zeiser".

Bishop Samuel

A LETTER FROM BISHOP EATON

Dear siblings in Christ,

As many of you know, last week the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution that, among other things, declared the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) a sanctuary denomination. Many of you are asking, “What does this mean?”

Our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith. In our baptismal covenant we promise to strive for peace and justice in all the world. One of the ways we live out this vow is through our commitment to welcoming the stranger. With this declaration, we publicly state that walking alongside refugees and immigrants is a matter of faith.



We have prepared [talking points](#) to provide a better understanding and further clarification on what sanctuary means for you and your congregations. We acknowledge this will look different in different contexts across the ELCA.

We also hope this resource will help guide conversations with your parishioners and your community about what our faith says about immigration.

*“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God” (Romans 15:7).*

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

Motion adopted at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (with approved amendments):

- To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan New York Synod concerning sanctuary;**
- To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO);**
- To recognize that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions requested by this memorial; and**
- To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team, LIRS and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary;**
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America declares itself a sanctuary church body; and**
- To request the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide units and offices, provide guidance for the three expressions of this church about what it means to be a sanctuary church body and provide a report to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.**



What does becoming a sanctuary denomination mean for the ELCA?

- **In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.** The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination does not call for any person, congregation or synod to engage in any illegal actions.**
- **We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum-seekers.** To declare ourselves a sanctuary church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors.** While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination will look different in different contexts.** It may mean providing space for people to live; providing financial and legal support to those who are working through the immigration system; or supporting other congregations and service providers. We cannot mandate or direct our congregations and ministries to respond in specific ways. Each must work out what this means for them in their context.
- **While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the church, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work.** Sanctuary for a congregation may mean hosting English as a second Language (ESL) classes; marching as people of faith against the detention of children and families; providing housing for a community member facing deportation; or, in some of our congregations, having thoughtful conversations about what our faith says about immigration. All of these are a step closer to sanctuary in our faith communities and sanctuary in our world for people who must leave their homes.

- **Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church.** Our decadeslong work with immigrants and refugees *is* how we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.
- **At our last churchwide assembly, we also committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the AMMPARO strategy** (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).
- **Through the AMMPARO strategy, we are also working through our global partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate.** We support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for the humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In the U.S., we have a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues and a welcome for immigrant communities. The church also has five sanctuary synods (our regional structures), all of which do work with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity.** As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members who have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work.** At the same time, we will have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members and discern future action and direction. Welcoming people is not a political issue for us, it is a matter of faith.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

St. Mark, Appenzell - Imagining Our Future



Last year St. Mark's Appenzell decided to work on its mission and ministry goals and to do it during sermon time over four sessions dispersed throughout the summer months. We constructed a timeline of what we remembered about church history by "talking amongst ourselves." We then wrote a memory or two on "sticky notes," which were placed by everyone on the timeline. Even children were excited to stick something on the wall.

It was noted that most of our memories occurred in the past 20-40 years, implying that the more distant past was not as important as where we are going now. So, the next week we talked about the challenges and the opportunities we experienced in just the past 20 years. Then, in the third session, we moved into asking "What is our church known for in the community?" followed by "What are some things we would like it to be known for?"

As a result of our reflections, three categories of ministry seemed to develop:

- learning/spiritual growth
- caring for membership/visitors
- fellowship/social ministry

During the final sessions, we listed on our sticky notes (see the picture above) some activities under each category that we would like to see started or improved. From those we chose two or three activities that we thought we might begin in the fall months.

The posters now hang in the church office to remind us about the other activities that we might try in the future. This process created a new energy that still continues in the congregation, as we look for ways God is calling us to be active in the community and the world.

Thank You!

Thanks to the congregations who donated mac & cheese at Assembly 2019. The food was divided equally between Valley Food Bank in Conyngham and Shepherd House, which serves Carbon County.

Holy Trinity, Dingmans Ferry Summer Youth Program: "Make Love Your Aim"



As soon as the public school year ends, youth ministry at Holy Trinity cranks up. The summer is full of faith formation and fun activities including group building, camping, lock-ins, and Vacation Bible Camp. The summer starts with a High Adventure Trip to the Adirondack Mountains. Seventeen high school youth and eight advisors spend a week camping, developing leadership skills, white water kayaking, and water skiing.



The second week includes three days of a Counselor In Training event for 30 middle school and high school youth. These young people are trained to work as teachers, helpers, and recreation staff for the Vacation Bible Camp. Some of the training is done by High Adventure Youth, as well as the pastor and staff.

The third week is filled with Vacation Bible Camp; and it includes an evening mid-week event with a giant BBQ, sing-a-long, and campfire for youth and families. The remainder of the summer has weekly youth activities for Grades 3-12. This year the theme was "Make Love Your Aim."



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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
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