

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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

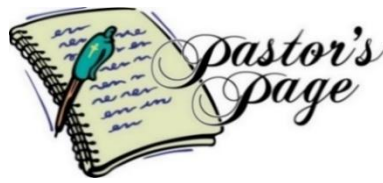
Office Phone: 610.682.6064

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



THE MISSION OF NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

*We are a group of people who
gather together in friendship and love
to worship God, to spread God's Word,
and to care for God's people.*



“...[I]n Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another. – Romans 12:5

Dear Friends,

Did you notice that the picture on the cover isn't quite as clear and polished as normal? That's because it is a picture of the poster our Faith Formation members prepared for Pentecost. Each member had several pieces and colored them, then sent them in to Cindy Rissmiller who taped them together to form the whole. If you have trouble reading the words, the main one is "Pentecost." Those above it say, "I will pour out my Spirit" and below, "All of them were filled with the Spirit."

What amazes me is that each person, in his or her own home, colored in the sections using his or her own resources. I am amazed at how well it all goes together! What a symbol of the church! In Christ, we who are many are brought together. We who are many become one: one body, working together. Sure, our edges show at times and we as church may not always appear that well united in purpose, but God works through us to bless the world.

For the last several months our Bible Study group has been reading through the Book of Acts and having fun while doing so. We are discovering the amazing story of the early church, how it quickly grew from about a hundred gathered in Jerusalem to thousands and thousands throughout the known world. Not only that, we are discovering how the church had to define and re-define its mission as more and more people of differing backgrounds were added. Each addition brought people with a variety of customs and understandings and gifts. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and that same Spirit worked through them to bring hope and healing to the world.

During the past months, many have felt isolated, like a separate piece of paper with only a little piece of the design showing. We wonder how we fit into what God is doing. Yet God assures us that each of us is an important piece of the picture. Each individual, each congregation, and each expression of the church is an important part of Christ's body.

A few months ago, we asked folks to list their favorite hymns. Jeanette DeLong and Phyllis Fenstermacher mentioned there was one from their Luther League days, something about all Christians linked together. They remembered the melody and a few of the words. They also remembered how important that hymn was to them, so important it has stayed in their minds for years. We did some research and found it in the *Service Book and Hymnal*, the "old' red book". It's called "O Christians, Leagued Together". It conveys the same symbolism as our poster made of individually colored sheets or Paul's image of the body of Christ.

Pentecost is not a once and done celebration. It is the longest season. The color for the Sundays following the Day of Pentecost is green, the color of growth, the color of the growing church. Pentecost is the season when we especially celebrate that God has poured out God's Spirit and that we have been privileged to be filled with that Holy Spirit and made one in the Body of Christ.



*We proudly bear as banner A cross within the heart,
To show that we have chosen Christ, the better part.
Then joy and peace and comfort Shall blossom as a rose,
Until our earthly blessings The worth of heaven disclose.*

– From "O Christians, Leagued Together" by Lillian Weaver Cassaday, 1861-1914.

We rejoice that you are joined with us in this growing, active Body of Christ.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following item was discussed and decisions made at our council meeting on August 17th:

- Council approved a recommendation from Worship and Music and the Task Force that we will hold worship in the sanctuary on Sundays, September 6 and 20 and via Zoom on Sundays, September 13 and 27. Each will be at 10:00 a.m. Guidelines for worship in the sanctuary are included in this mailing.

BIBLE STUDY continues with the book of Acts at 11:00 a.m. on Mondays, September 14, 21, and 28 via Zoom. If you would like to join us, call or email Pastor Ruth and she can send you the link.

THREADS FOR OTHERS – If you need material to make masks or yarn for cowls and hats for seafarers, let Pastor Ruth know. Supplies are available at church.

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October 2020 newsletter is **Sunday, September 20**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

As part of our continuing adaptation to the pandemic, beginning in September we will be offering three ways to worship with members of our congregation. While we long to gather together in our sanctuary, we recognize that not everyone would be able or feel safe to do so. At the same time, we recognize that not everyone has access to the internet or finds Zoom to be a meaningful way to worship.

As noted above, our current plans are to gather **in our church building** Sunday, September 6 and 20 at 10:00 a.m. (Guidelines are enclosed with this mailing.) We will be worshipping via **Zoom** on Sunday, September 13 and 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Communion on the Parking Lot will be offered Saturday, September 12, at 5:00 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, September 13.) People are welcome to stay in their cars or bring lawn chairs for the

communion services. Masks are to be worn when physically worshipping with others.

In order to minimize the possibility of exposure to COVID-19, the services in the sanctuary and on the parking lot will each be about 30 minutes.

Information on how to connect for Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other methods is available.

In addition to these three opportunities to “gather,” bulletins are being mailed or emailed to those who request them so that they can worship at home. Those not able to join us for our Zoom worship services on Sunday mornings, can watch the services on our Facebook page or on our website <https://newjerusalemlutheran.weebly.com> under the “Zoom Worship Services” tab. We actually know that people who are not members are joining us in worship through these means, so this has become an opportunity for sharing the good news with others, an opportunity for what is known as evangelism.

If you would like to receive a bulletin via mail or email, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or njelchurch@windstream.net.

Bulletins are also available on our website: <http://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>.

COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

On Saturday evening, **September 12, 5:00 p.m.** (Sunday, September 13, is the rain date.) Note the change in time.

These short services (about ½ hour) allow us to not only share the meal our Lord gave us, but also to see and visit with one another. As the days grow shorter and the sun is setting earlier, we are finding that heat is not so much of a problem at the designated time.

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS and Worship and Music will continue to incorporate them into our worship services.

COLORING GROUP

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly. On **Thursday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m.** the group will get together downstairs at church to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. Pages will be provided. Feel free to bring your own supplies, though colored pencils and markers will also be provided. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.



If you are interested, let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know. 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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SPONSORS

The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15 for a month.

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

Flower Sponsors for September:

September 6 – *sponsor needed*
September 20 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors for September:

September 6 – *sponsor needed*
September 13 – *sponsor needed*
September 20 – *sponsor needed*
September 27 – Gladys Kline

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for August: Elaine Seip

PASTORAL CARE DURING THE CURRENT SITUATION

Pastor Ruth is available via phone and electronic means to provide care to anyone in our congregation or seeking care from us. Currently, she is monitoring whether she is allowed to enter hospitals, but is not entering nursing facilities. Please continue to let her know when someone enters the hospital or when anyone is experiencing a change in health or situation.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! NEW JERUSALEM WEBPAGE IS SOMETHING TO SEE!

Thanks to Korinne's hard and seemingly magical work, our website is something we can be very proud of. Check it out!

<https://newjerusalem.lutheran.weebly.com>

We are told that a website is the face we present to the world. This makes it a first step in sharing the good news of God's love, what we call evangelism. Did you know that our Zoom worship services can be accessed through the website? We also feature many other devotional materials.

If you have suggestions for ways to make it even better, let us know.

WHILE WE LOVE TO SING, THERE ARE REASONS WHY WE CURRENTLY REFRAIN FROM SINGING WHEN WE GATHER IN PERSON

We love to sing! "It is a means of connecting with God and with one another, and of unifying our thoughts and understanding, our heartbeats and breath."
(Resuming Care-Filled Worship, guidelines published by the ELCA and Episcopal church.)

While scripture and Lutheran tradition encourage us to enthusiastically raise our voices in praise of the God who loves us, the God who loves us also tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. For this reason, the guidelines worship put forth by leaders of many denominations have included strong recommendations to restrain from singing when gathering in person, even if those attending are wearing masks and keeping "social distance."

Resuming Care-Filled Worship puts it this way:
We are now coming to grips with this disconcerting fact: The coronavirus is spread through moist breath. Several recent studies have found that forceful, sustained breathing, such as during singing and playing brass and wind instruments, appears to pose a greater danger of spreading the coronavirus than ordinary speaking at low volume.

Deacon Michael Krentz explained it to me this way: "The spreading of the virus by aerosols seems to be a definite concern, with singing being high on the list of activities that would produce lots of aerosols."

When we sing, our breath comes from deeper in our lungs and is projected with greater force. This causes what would normally come out as droplets

to not only be pushed farther, but to be expressed as aerosols. Aerosols are smaller than droplets and can go through masks. Since they are lighter than droplets, they hang around in the air for a longer time, sometimes more than 15 minutes. This means that with aerosols, if I am in a space where I have expressed aerosols and then leave that space, and if you enter it 10 minutes later, you will be exposed to those aerosols.

While we are encouraged to refrain from singing when physically gathered together, there are things we can do:

- participate in music with body percussion such as clapping, tapping their thighs, and stomping;
- use instruments such as organ, piano, and string, tambourines, etc. that do not require breath; and
- employ silence as a part of worship.

Of course, when we are on Zoom worship, we can sing as loudly and exuberantly as we'd like!

Members of Worship and Music Committee are working hard to design worship that is as meaningful as possible to a variety of worshippers. Our plans at the moment are that when we do meet in our sanctuary, we will share in praising God through music by using instruments and by recorded singing played over the loud speaker. Those who are attending are invited to participate through listening and mediation or, when the Spirit moves them, to sway or clap, tap their feet, nod their heads, silently read words provided, etc. Then, when you are away from others, feel free to sing at the top of your lungs.

BIBLE QUIZ

Which of these was *not* one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

- A. an abundance of frogs
- B. the Nile River turned to blood
- C. the collapse of the pyramids
- D. thick darkness



Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)

HELP REPLACE THE LUTHERAN HOME AT TOPTON'S CARILLON

The iconic Old Main building, with its distinctive clock tower and carillon, graces the hillside of The Lutheran Home and can be seen for miles. The peace and beauty, blending with the bells and music coming from the carillon, has



always been a joy and comfort to its residents. However, after many years of service and numerous repairs, the Old Main Carillon is now in need of replacement.

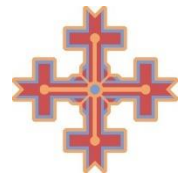
To replace the chimes and related mechanisms, gifts totaling \$15,000 are needed. The home is inviting interested individuals, residents, families and church congregations to partner with them to restore the Carillon to its joyful chorus. As of July 2020, \$4,000 in pledges have been committed to the project. Any and all gifts will help support this project (no gift is too small). Gifts may honor a special occasion or may memorialize a loved one.

For more information, please contact Topton resident and volunteer Marlane Druckenmiller at teaconn@gmail.com or 610.641.1245 or Diakon Director of Development, Lisa Titus at TitusL@diakon.org or 610.952.5444.

DID YOU KNOW?

CROSS CROSSLET

This cross is formed of four smaller Latin crosses joined at their overlapping bases. The cross as a whole represents the spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the earth. This cross is often used in connection with missions. It is also known as the Jerusalem cross, since Jesus told his disciples, "[Y]ou will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8



YOU'RE INVITED: AN ONLINE BENEFIT TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is deepening food insecurity at home and around the world. Many of you have already been hard at work responding to the needs of your neighbors. Thank you!

We are in a historic moment, facing a once-in-a-century pandemic and a global change in hunger unlike anything we have seen in our lifetime. Domestically and internationally, hunger is increasing at alarming rates.

[HUNGER IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: LIFE FOR TODAY AND HOPE FOR TOMORROW](#)

[Rick Steves](#), guidebook author and travel TV host; the Rev. [Elizabeth A. Eaton](#), presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and the Rev. [Shelley Bryan Wee](#), bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod, invite you to an online benefit—the first of its kind—for ELCA World Hunger. **Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to confront hunger in the time of COVID-19.**


When: Thursday, September 24, 7 p.m. Central time

Where: Zoom virtual meet

At this event, you will learn about the unique ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. Our hosts will also discuss the ongoing root causes of hunger and poverty addressed in Rick Steves' recent special *Hunger and Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia and Guatemala*. And you will hear from ELCA World Hunger partners on the front lines of the current hunger crisis, who will tell you firsthand how your gifts make a difference.

We are called by God to share hope in this time of challenge. Join us to face this global hunger crisis head-on and to continue moving toward a just world where all are fed.

Now, this benefit is a unique opportunity for us to respond to this crisis as a whole church. We can make an impact in the fight against hunger in the time of COVID-19—together.

 REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/3ggPrnj>

After you register you will be emailed a link.

Registration closes September 22.

STEWARDED THE COMMON GOOD

Jesus taught, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* – **Matthew 22:38**

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother, whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God's question, Cain snarkily retorts, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The correct answer for Cain is, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper." And the principle applies to us, too.

Woven through Scripture is God's clear priority that we love and care for one another. The imperative finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy. *No exceptions.*

Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is an essential component.

As North Americans, we haven't done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to "look out for number one," as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government results from our thinking "what's good for me," rather than "what's good for everybody."

Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian?

This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor and stewarding the common good is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act.

—Rob Blezard

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CHRISTIANS VOTE AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO SO

God gave us governments to guide, protect, and promote the welfare of all people. When Luther explains what we mean when we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," he says "daily bread" includes "all that we need to support this body and life," including good government.

Since our form of government is one in which the citizens choose and are in communication with their leaders, this means we citizens are an important part of our system of government. Just as individual Christians are important parts of Christ's body and are expected to faithfully contribute to the whole, being faithful participants in our government includes voting.

As we approach November 3, it is important that we as individuals and a nation continue to discern which leaders would be the best to choose. This includes not only President and Vice President, but all other positions on the ballot. Who will have the wisdom and courage to stand up for and promote a more just and well-functioning society, a society that conforms as closely as possible to what God wants for all God's children? This does not mean that we vote only for Christians, but that we work to discern which leaders, no matter their creed, will work for the society that God envisions, a society which includes "liberty and justice for all."

SEPTEMBER IS VOTER REGISTRATION MONTH

Before one can vote, one needs to register. Hopefully all adults reading this newsletter are registered voters. If you are not, the information on how to register is below. If you know of anyone who is not registered, please encourage them to do so. The deadline in Pennsylvania is **October 19**.

Often we assume that our friends and neighbors are registered. You might be surprised to find out that some are not. While asking whether someone is registered might seem embarrassing, we can first speak up about the importance of voting. Then we can simply encourage them to, in turn, encourage others to register if they have not.

So, here are the ways one can register. More information and the registration form can be found on the website at <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>. We will also have

copies of the form in the church office. The form can be submitted online or mailed in.

The last day to register is October 19, 2020. A registration form must be received by your county registration office by this date. You can submit it online, in person, or by mail. The address for the Berks County office is **633 Court St, Reading, PA 19601, (610) 478-6490**.

If you have questions or cannot access the internet or the link above, call (877) 868-3772.

For more information about voting in Pennsylvania you can call the number above or go to:

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Pages/default.aspx>.

HOW TO REQUEST A MAIL IN BALLOT

In Pennsylvania you no longer need to have a special reason to request a mail-in ballot. However, you must do so soon. The last day to *request* a mail in ballot is **October 27**.

You can:

- Request a ballot online,
- Download, print, and mail a request form to mail, or
- Call or visit your **local elections office**.

Remember:

- To use the online form, you must have a state driver's license or state-issued ID card. Once you have requested a mail-in ballot you can track your request on the computer.

If you missed the deadline to request a ballot, contact your **elections office** for any last-minute or emergency options.

VOTING WITH A MAIL-IN BALLOT

You can return your ballot by:

- dropping it off in person at your local elections office,
- dropping it off at a secure ballot drop-off location,
- or mailing it.

To make sure your ballot counts, remember to...

- Be sure to sign the declaration on the return (inner) envelope.
- Seal inner and outer envelopes.
- Closely follow all instructions to ensure your ballot is counted.
- Return your ballot promptly. Postmarks don't count!

SEPTEMBER IS ALSO NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

We have already seen the ravages of flooding following Hurricane Isaias. Not only are we in the midst of hurricane season, but winter weather is fast approaching which may lead to power outages. Other natural and man-made disasters may also make it necessary to leave our homes quickly or shelter-in-place.

Take time this month to stock basic supplies for use for 3 to 5 days. You can access a 23-page guide via <https://www.ready.pa.gov/BelInformed/EmergencyPreparednessGuide/Documents/PAEmergencyPreparednessGuide.pdf> or call the church office and we will send you one.

While it is important to think about and discuss with family members what you would do in various types of emergencies, it is most important that you do something to prepare. AARP's site states that "there's one tip that every person needs to take from all these situations: how to pack a 'go bag.'"

A go bag is a packed case that you grab on your way out the door, and that will help keep you safe and comfortable in the coming hours and days. Stopping to hunt for your medications or other important needs can cost you critical seconds in an evacuation. Pack a separate go bag for yourself and every member of your household, and keep them stored in the same location.

Recommendations for a "go bag" include:

1. Basic electronics. Pack an extra phone charger in case you're fortunate enough to have electricity, and a portable battery pack in case you're not. Also stash a long-lasting LED flashlight. Pack a small hand-cranked or battery-operated AM/FM radio (with extra batteries).

2. Personal needs. While getting ready for a typical day, list every toiletry you use, then buy a travel-size version of each. Pack backup eyeglasses, as well as a first-aid kit, baby wipes and a multipurpose tool with a knife and can opener.

3. Clothing. Pack a few days' worth. Include layers you can add or remove, plus lightweight rain gear and waterproof boots.

4. Your meds. Pack about three days' worth of each of your prescriptions, which should last until

you can get to a pharmacy that's open. If you need larger items, such as an oxygen tank, make sure you have a portable version.

5. The perfect bag. Think small and portable. A backpack is ideal, but a lightweight suitcase with wheels will also do. Just remember, you may literally be running with it.

6. Paperwork. Fill a zip-top waterproof bag with photocopies of your birth certificate; driver's license; Social Security and Medicare cards; power of attorney and will; any marriage, adoption or naturalization certificates; proof of address; insurance, medical and immunization records; and information about your credit and ATM cards.

7. Food and drink. Bottled water is essential. Granola or energy bars are great because they are small and filling, and they come in a variety of flavors.

8. Cash. In addition to enough money for a few days, include small bills and a roll of quarters. If you need to buy something out of a vending machine, you don't want to start asking equally desperate strangers for change. Credit card and ATM machines may not be working or easily accessible.

The list above was provided to AARP by Jeff Rossen, NBC News' national investigative correspondent.

"SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE"

The following is taken from the summer 2020 edition of Boundless, the ELCA publication sharing stories of Christ's abounding love and grace.

"After 12 years of serving with the United States Marine Corps, Rebekah Nelson sensed the Holy Spirit calling her in a new direction." She had thought about serving as a chaplain for a long time, but not as a career. After checking out the requirements and visiting ELCA seminaries, she found out that she qualified for the ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program to pay for her tuition. Right after that she was accepted into the U.S. Army federal chaplaincy program. Rebekah has now completed her first year at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg.

The ELCA Fund for Leaders provides seminary scholarships to support the future leaders of the church.

Christopher Otten, director of federal chaplaincies for the ELCA, describes chaplaincy as an incarnational project, “a ministry of accompanying people wherever they happen to be while away from home in a veteran hospital, or a person incarcerated in a federal prison or a soldier in the middle of a battlefield.”

Even while in seminary Rebekah is already putting her training to use. This past April during pandemic she made 60 calls a day to offer pastoral care to soldiers, some of whom are health care workers.

A portion of our contributions to the Northeastern PA Synod are used to support our seminaries and other training for future leaders.



- 2 Dawn Wartzluft
- 10 Larry Dey
- 10 Regina Kohl
- 11 Virginia Guinther
- 16 Dorothy Turner
- 17 Shirley Hertzog
- 17 Alan Carl
- 17 Taylor Cleaver
- 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 Wartzluft (23 years)
- 9 Randy and Luann Bennecoff (48 years)
- 10 Gary and Vikie Seyfert (15 years)
- 20 Ronald and Wilma Herman (45 years)

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

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

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT

Members: Myles Angstadt, Dallas Bennecoff, Sara Jane Beshore, George DeLong, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Patricia Keck, Penny Keller, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Roy Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, Gary and Vikie Seyfert.

Friends of the congregation: Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Anne Cunningham, Mark Derr, Lee Dice, Randy Dreibelbis, Jennifer Engle, Eric Fox, Harry Geidner, Jason Grof, Mamie Guinther, Stephen and Denise Haage, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Edna Kramer, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Doris Meadway, Rodney Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Lynn Rothman, Patricia Sigfried, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, Pat, and Sam.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: We pray for all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; our citizens as they prepare to vote; 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; our military personnel serving around the world; areas enduring disaster; and migrants and refugees.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, David Jenkins, Sue Kearney, Anh La, Michelle Meck, Nancy Meck, Joanne Pauley, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Joshua S., Bronwyn Schielke, Roger Schollenberger, Donna Schwoyer, The Spatz Family, and Leah Wiest.

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

July 31, 2020

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 19,339.26
Thrivent	8,013.93
Checking	6,707.31
Youth	406.45
Fidelity	94,935.34
Cash Reserve	19,201.58
Mission Investment	11,523.06
Local Care	2,021.43
Total:	<u>\$ 162,148.36</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **July 31, 2019** \$ 193,127 84.

July 2020 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

Income	Income	Actual	Difference
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>
Operating Expenses	Per Month	\$ 1,891.00	\$ (7,674.00)
	\$ 9,565.00		

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2020
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 Parking Lot
Project
\$ 31,933.52 Funds Received to Offset Expenses

The cross is central to my faith.

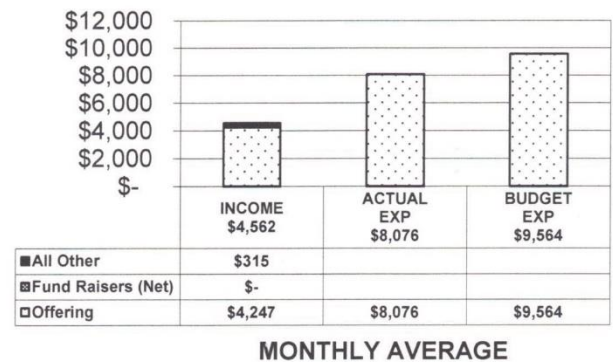
*But I am concerned for our church and for our witness
to the world if the cross only stand for Jesus’ sacrifice
for our sins. As I read the Scriptures, I’m reminded that
Jesus died because he was considered a threat to a
society that neglected the poor and
worshiped the sword.*



*Sometimes I even wish Jesus hadn’t
asked me to take up my cross.*

Excerpt by retired pastor George Johnson, as seen in
Living Lutheran.

JUNE 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE



CALENDAR YEAR 2020 INFORMATION NORMAL OPERATIONS (DOES NOT INCLUDE MAJOR REPAIRS/PURCHASES)

INCOME & EXPENSE ACTIVITY JUNE 2020 YEAR-TO-DATE		
	Jun Y-T-D	Average Month
Income		
Offering	\$ 25,484	\$ 4,247
Fund Raisers	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 1,887	\$ 315
Total Income	\$ 27,371	\$ 4,562
Actual Exp	\$ 48,457	\$ 8,076
Budget Exp	\$ 57,381	\$ 9,564
Shortage *	\$ (30,010)	\$ (5,002)

***NOTE: Shortage - Total Income to 2020 BUDGET Expense
Less Benevolence**



THANK YOU FROM THE BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY

If there was any doubt that God wants the ministry of the Brandywine Food Pantry to continue His mission, that doubt was erased these past few months. To say the cupboards were bare would be putting it mildly. We at the pantry were concerned that we would not be able to stay open during the COVID-19 virus because we didn't think we would be able to keep the pantry stocked.

Well, we shouldn't have worried about that. God was in control. Notices were emailed to the local churches about the need, and a notice placed on various church signs making the local communities aware of the Food Pantry needing food; and that's all it took. The following Tuesday, we were flooded with donations, we couldn't keep up with them. They literally went out the door, we didn't know where to go, they just kept coming. What a blessing! We had two churches sponsor drive-through food drives for the pantry, two businesses have generously had fundraisers for the food pantry, there have been individuals who have continually donated, and some of this year's Senior Class has had money donated in honor of their graduation. It has continued at a slower pace, but we are being kept supplied enough to provide, and that is the purpose of the pantry.

For anybody who does not believe that we have a wonderful community, the miracle that was provided these past few months and that continues to happen is proof that if there is a need, the people in our community and I don't just mean Topton and Mertztown. I mean the people who feel the same way that we do, that what Jesus said in the Bible is true: And the second commandment is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." We have truly seen it. God has blessed us richly. Thank you to everyone who has donated in any way possible, through giving of your time, the food and money donations, and the asking if anything else is needed. We are so very humbled and grateful for the outpouring of kindness and generosity. It does not seem like enough to say but we sincerely thank you. We also want to thank St. Peter's UCC for hosting our ministry.

If you are in need or know of anyone in need, please call the food pantry at 610-682-7633 to set up an appointment. We are open on the first three

Tuesdays and the third Thursday of the month. We also have free bread on Tuesdays from 9:15 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. and you do not need to have an appointment.

With many thanks and blessings to all of you,
The Brandywine Food Pantry Board

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

In the light of concerns about increased food needs in response to COVID-19 and possible challenges of delivering items to the food bank – *please consider a generous monetary donation.* We will keep you posted with info from the food pantry. You can make out a check to "Brandywine Food Pantry," and mail it to Brandywine Food Pantry, c/o St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 122 W. Franklin St., Topton, PA, 19562.

Donated Items in much need right now: coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juices, breakfast cereal, pancake syrup and mix, mayonnaise, ketchup, soup of all kinds, spaghetti sauce, beef stew, Chicken-ala-King, canned meat (such as tuna, chicken breast or Spam), Manwich or sloppy joe mix, chili, Chef Boyardee canned items (such as beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), pasta or rice sides, snacks of all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.), shampoo, bar soap, body wash, and laundry detergent.

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

Please check dates on donated food products.

During this time, it is best to take physical donations to St. Peter's during pantry hours or call to arrange a convenient time at 610.682.7633. If you cannot deliver things to St. Peter's, please call our church office to arrange a time to deliver them to New Jerusalem.

A PRAYER FOR PERSPECTIVE

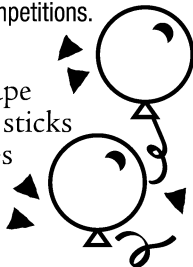
Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Amen.

GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

What you need:

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue

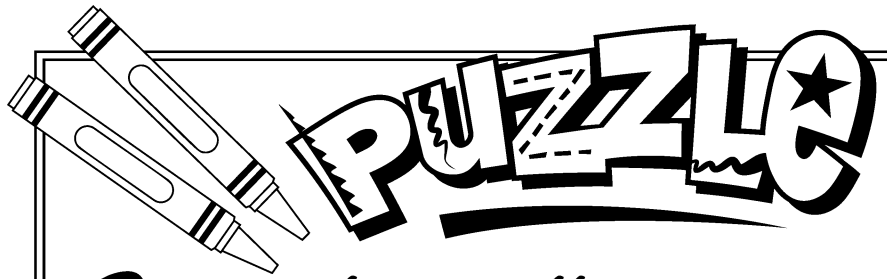


What you do:

Balloon Badminton: Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

Rhythmic Routines: Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

Champion Crown: Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!



Compete for the crown



The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.



Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

START

ctrejasucphelnpomrxkibvztaejargiusonyccw

iqsatexympsakogmzsjeubtnyehapidmrfo

FINISH

"Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run, but only one gets the _____? _____ in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who _____ in the _____ goes into strict _____ . They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a _____ that will last forever."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown

NEW JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH INSTRUCTIONS FOR “COMMUNING ON THE LOT”

- 1) Everyone who attends must be in a car as they enter the lot.
- 2) As you approach, there will be provisions for you, from the driver’s side, to:
 - a) receive a bulletin and the elements for communion
 - b) present an offering
 - c) deposit donations for the food bank

The pre-packaged elements for communion will be in a sealed baggie. Take as many as needed for those in your car. The elements are gluten free and the drink is juice, not wine.
- 3) Once all the elements are inside the car, you should roll your window up to within 2-3 inches from the top. Please do not open the bag until you are instructed to do so by Pastor Ruth.
- 4) You will be directed to a parking space.
- 5) If we have a loudspeaker system available, and you are wearing a mask and have brought a lawn chair, you may set it up in the designated area. Otherwise, please remain in your car throughout the service.
- 6) Please do not roll your car windows all the way down. Either lower them about 2 or 3 inches for air or run your air conditioner. The service will be short.
- 7) Tune your car radio to **87.9 FM** to hear Pastor Ruth leading the service. You will hear static until the service starts.
- 8) The order of service will be brief.
- 9) Pastor Ruth will be located outside the scout cabin. Following a brief liturgy, she will bless the elements followed by the Lord’s Prayer. Then she will direct you to open your bags and distribute the elements to everyone in your car.
- 10) Once each person has their wafer and grape juice in hand, Pastor will instruct you to *carefully* unseal the wafer and eat it. She will then instruct you to unseal the grape juice and drink it, thereby eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ as our Lord commanded.
- 11) Please place your empty cups back in the baggie and take it home to discard.
- 12) After the Dismissal, you are free to leave. If you are wearing a mask and maintain a 6-foot distance from others, you may get out of your car to greet one another. If you feel safer waiting in your car with your window shut, you may wait for others to walk by and greet you.
- 13) Please note: Bathroom facilities will be available inside the entrance to the church located at the top of the ramp. Please only enter and exit this way and do not go into any other area of the church. Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter and exit.

SEPTEMBER GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY OF NEW JERUSALEM

Due to the current pandemic, it has been a long time since we gathered for worship in our sanctuary. While many of us have missed being in the space that is very sacred to us and have longed to be among our brothers and sisters, we have refrained for the sake of protecting the health of our brothers and sisters. We are also thankful that some of us have had the options to worship together via Zoom and/or to celebrate communion by gathering on the parking lot.

We grieve that not everyone will be able to or will feel safe to gather in the sanctuary. For those who *do* wish to enter, we have set the following guidelines:

- 1) If, within the past 14 days, you have tested positive or been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms or are feeling ill in any way, stay home.
- 2) Masks are to be worn by everyone entering the building and to remain on until they depart. Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations. Worshippers are asked to bring their own masks. However, a few will be available if someone does not have one. If you are not able to wear a mask due to health concerns, we ask that for your sake and the sake of others you not come to worship in the sanctuary.
- 3) At all times a distance of at least 6 feet from people other than family members is to be observed.
- 4) Everyone is to enter and exit using the door at the top of the ramp. This way no one will need the elevator and we can keep that area of the building sanitized.
- 5) Bulletins for each person to pick up and an offering basket will be located on the shelves in the entrance way. We also plan to mail out bulletins ahead of time, so, if you can remember, please bring the one you have been mailed. That way we will not need to print as many.
- 6) Seats that respect social distancing have been designated. Some are designated so that family members may sit together. Please only sit in the designated seats.
- 7) When entering the building, those who enter first are to proceed to the front seats. Others who enter will fill in seats immediately behind those who are seated. While these may not be the seats you normally sit in, we ask you to follow this guideline for the sake of everyone present.
- 8) When the service is over, those who in the back are to exit first and go directly to the parking lot.
- 9) If you wish to visit with others in the parking lot, please continue to wear your mask and observe the appropriate distance from one another.
- 10) Only one person at a time is to use the bathroom, unless a family member is needed to give assistance to someone. When unoccupied, the door to the bathroom is to remain open. Please close the door when you enter and open it when you exit.

The services that are being planned will be shorter than normal, probably lasting about 30 minutes. This has been recommended in order to reduce exposure time.

Members of Worship and Music Committee, Congregation Council and others have been working hard to enable those who desire to re-enter the sacred space of our sanctuary. They are also aware that plans will need to be adapted to changing conditions. We pray that the current arrangements will allow those who choose to attend an opportunity for meaningful worship of the God who never forsakes us and refuses to be confined.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Bear Creek Camp Confronts the Pandemic

New Ways for Ministry in Summer Season 2020

When COVID-19 forced the suspension of the summer camp program for this season, the staff and Board of Directors of Bear Creek Camp quickly grappled with the challenge. They moved toward new ministry opportunities that could still provide for the safety and health of their community. Two programs emerged from their work: **Family Vacation Rentals** and the **Bear Creek Camp Conservation Corps (BCCCC)**.

Family Vacation Rentals was a unique opportunity for families to visit the camp, stay in cabins, eat meals prepared carry-out style, and enjoy the nearly 3000 acres of forest and streams through swimming, hiking, and relaxing time together.



Family Camping



Painting Crew

Above and beyond these duties, the group spent each day in devotion and worship with one another. They also took time to focus on professional development and on building skills to benefit the summer camp experience in 2021.

As Bear Creek Camp moves towards the Fall and beyond, your prayerful financial support will be more important than ever before. To learn more about programs at BCC throughout the year, visit www.bearcreekcamp.org.

The BCCCC was a select group of twelve returning summer staff who had previously made the commitment to serve as counselors this summer. Throughout the four weeks of their time together, they lived as a cohort and formed an intentional Christian community.

Each day the team worked on maintenance projects including improving trails and overnight sites, building new high and low ropes elements, constructing bridges, and painting anything they could get their hands on.

They also connected with the campers and their families, creating digital content to share on social media and assisting with programming on-site.



Trail Blazers

Assembly 2020 - A New Way of Being Church Together

Friday evening, October 16 & Sunday afternoon, October 18

Friday evening, October 23 & Saturday morning and afternoon, October 24

Because of concern for the safety of the voting members in this time of pandemic, Assembly 2020, including the election of a bishop, will be conducted online. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is not the first to hold an online assembly this year; and based on the experience of other synods, especially the South Carolina Synod, the assembly planning team has full confidence that our assembly will be able to conduct its business and elections efficiently and in good order.

We have a production team, Events Staging, that has worked with our synod for a number of years to produce the video for our in-person assemblies. And we also have contracted with Lumi, a tech firm that specializes in online voting and that has been used by the ELCA for churchwide assemblies as well as by other synods for their local assemblies. With the support of these teams, and with the hard work of synod staff and some willing volunteers, Assembly 2020 promises to be a groundbreaking event!

How will this work?

The entire assembly will be broadcast live and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. Voting members will need to register and will be given individual credentials to login to a more tailored experience, including the ability to vote, ask questions, and speak to resolutions or other matters. For "visitors" - those who simply wishes to watch the proceedings - unlike past years, there is no need to register.

What do I need to participate?

To participate as a voting member you will need a reliable internet connection, for example, one that can watch a YouTube video without problems. You will also need either a desktop or laptop computer with a microphone and camera. It will be possible for two or more people to share a computer; however, each individual will need a separate device (like a smartphone or tablet) in order to vote.

What if I'm not very tech savvy?

The assembly planning team is working to make participation as simple as possible. Detailed written instructions, as well as an instructional video, will be sent to each voting member well before the assembly. There also will be an opportunity to login to an orientation session prior to the actual assembly in order to discover and fix any issues a voting member might encounter. Finally, there will be a support line to contact a tech team for individual help with any question or problem.



We Are Church
Together

NEPA Synod Assembly 2020

If your congregation has not yet selected its voting members, volunteer to participate in this exciting new experience.
Registration is now open. Visit the synod website at nepasynod.org.

We Are Church Together and We Can Do This!

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 14 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in the Sanctuary	7  OFFICE CLOSED	8	9	10	11	12 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot Rain date: Sunday, September 13
13 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-ZOOM Worship Service	14 11:00am-Bible Study 6:30pm-Task Force Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Council Meeting	15	16	17 10:00am-Coloring Group	18	19
20 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship in the Sanctuary	21 11:00am-Bible Study	22	23	24	25	26
27 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-ZOOM Worship Service	28 11:00am-Bible Study	29 Michael and All Angels	30			