

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

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OFFICE HOURS:

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



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 Friends,

Remember Sesame Street? Remember how some sections of the shows were “brought to you by the letter ...?” Well, this newsletter is brought to you by the letter **S**.

S. September starts with *s*. So does *school*. Many of us associate September with the start of school. Students begins with *s*. So does *stewardship*. This month our stewardship emphasis is on providing packaged food and other necessary items for the students at Kutztown University through their Student Center shop.

Summer starts with *s*. So does *sadness*. For some of us there is a certain sadness because September means the summer is coming to an end. No more of the “lazy, crazy, hazy days” we associate with summer. But *spirit* also begins with *s*. For many, September brings a certain spirit of excitement and even comfort: getting back into the routine, looking forward to focusing back on projects.

Stove begins with *s*. Later in this newsletter you’ll read about the stove we provided for the students at Olchoki Primary School.

Then there is *scouts*. Have you noticed all the changes at the cabin? Thanks so much to our Property Committee and the scouts and their leaders for cleaning up the cabin and its surroundings, getting rid of the old trailers, and installing the new shed!

Singing begins with *s*. As choir starts up again, remember, “All God’s critters (including you) got a place in the choir.”

Speaking of music, this reminds us of the word *strum* and on Sunday, September 4, we will join Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, for their Bluegrass worship service at 10:30 a.m. (If it rains, we’ll be in their sanctuary.)

As we were working on this newsletter, Korinne reminded me that the word *signs*, as in “signs of the times,” begins with *s*. Just a couple of weeks ago Jesus commented that those listening to him knew how to read the signs of impending weather, “When you see clouds coming in from the west, you say, ‘Storm’s coming’—and you’re right. And when the wind comes out of the south, you say, ‘This’ll be a hot one’—and you’re right.” (Luke 12: 54-55, *The Message*). Then he called on them to pay attention to the signs of the times as God would read them.

Signs of the times. Many are disturbed by what they see as signs of our times: rapid change, inflation, not enough employees especially in healthcare facilities, continued serious political discord, fewer people showing up regularly at church, etc. Jesus followed up on his comment about the weather with, “[D]on’t tell me you can’t tell a change in the season, the God-season we’re in right now.” One of the reasons we followers of Jesus gather for worship and study is for help in reading the signs of the God-season we are in. Most importantly, though, we gather to be reminded that Jesus promised to give us the **Spirit** to help us not only read, but to learn how to respond to the signs of our times and to have the courage to do so.

And so, in September, as with every other time, we continue to pray, “Come, Holy Spirit, come. Fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.”

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Pastor Ruth

NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, August 15th:

- Council members discussed Chapter 3 of “I Am a Church Member.”
- Chaplain Colleen Kristula, Lutheran Home in Topton, will be providing 2-hour training for volunteers in the “No One Dies Alone” program as well as a workshop on “Preparing for Paradise.”
- As part of Disaster Preparedness Month, members started discussing how to take an inventory of the property in and around the church.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, September 12, 7:00 p.m.**

BLUEGRASS SERVICE/CONCERT

Members of New Jerusalem will join Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, for their yearly Bluegrass Service on **Sunday, September 4, at 10:30 a.m.** Come out to hear great songs and hymns. Music provided by the talented musicians of the Pines Dinner Theater. Please note we will **not** be worshipping in our church building on this Sunday.

BIBLE STUDY

Watch for our October start up date. Suggestions welcome for what to study next. New participants welcome. Tell Pastor Ruth if you're interested.

COLORING GROUP

The next meeting is **Thursday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m.** Friends are welcome. If you can't get to church or don't feel comfortable gathering, pages can be sent to you. If interested, contact Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152).

THE COMPASSIONATE CRAFTERS

Want to crochet or knit to God's glory and make the world a better place? If so, you are welcome to join to join with other crafters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Topton. Meetings take place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month (September through May) from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. **Their meeting dates for September are Thursday, September 8 and 22.**

Upcoming Events BEAR CREEK CAMP

Labor Day Family Camp – Friday, September 2, to Monday, September 5

Take an extended weekend to relax and experience camp with your family. This retreat for all ages includes daily devotions and worship, waterfront time, guided hikes, arts and crafts, nature center exploration, high ropes, archery, and plenty of opportunities for family games and individual activities. Registration is now open! Learn more at <https://www.bearcreekcamp.org/family-camps>.

Also at Bear Creek: Women's Retreat - Friday, September 30 to Sunday, October 2 –

This retreat is designed to provide women with an opportunity to enjoy time both individually and collectively, participate in creative activities, explore outdoors, have time for rest and renewal, and be in the beauty of God's creation in a peaceful setting. Registration is now open! Learn more at <https://bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat>.

BLUE MOUNTAIN CHORUS

Held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mertztown, the Blue Mountain Chorus will be performing on **Sunday, September 11, at 2:00 p.m.** Come out to hear some great tunes by these talented ladies and gentlemen.



WALKING/HIKING GROUP

A walking/hiking group started by the Ministries with Seniors group is open to anyone who wants to participate. Their next hike will be **Thursday, Sept. 15.** Meet at **10:30** at the Brandywine Community Library parking lot for a 1- to 2-mile hike on the Lutheran Home hiking trails. Long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, good walking shoes, and bring a hiking stick are suggested. To join, confirm the date, suggest another time to meet, or if you have any questions, contact Jim Kwiatkowski at 484.226.6232, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton.

PREPARING FOR PARADISE – September 12, 1:30 p.m., Henry Auditorium of the Lutheran Home

There are many details surrounding the end of life, including funeral pre-planning, obituaries, financial and other records. While many of us have done some work on these plans, there are also “spiritual” details such as the actual content of a funeral service or memorial: scripture, hymns, what one wishes to be remembered for, and the values one will leave behind. Join Chaplain Colleen Kristula to look at many aspects of what should be in your “In the event of my death” folder for those you leave behind.

The agenda includes: What makes your life worth living? Questions for a eulogy; preferences for a service; ethical will including values inventory and legacy letter.

SACRED GROUND (A film- and readings-based dialogue series on race and faith)

This fall, Christ Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran, Reading will host Sacred Ground. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. This 11-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides the present day—all while grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love. The series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. The series begins on **Tuesday, September 13, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and runs every other Tuesday.** It is held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 527 Washington Street, Reading. Visit the Sacred Ground website at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/> for more information on the series. In addition to the sessions, the series requires a commitment to read/view articles and videos prior to each class. Sign up or get more information by contacting Deaconess Deborah at Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, at 610.374.4861 or email her at dgraf@trinityreading.org.

Can’t attend an in-person program? An online offering is being prepared from the Lehigh Valley. Let Pastor Ruth know if you are interested.

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Lutheran Disaster Response Eastern Pennsylvania, continues to help our neighbors in the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia recover after damage from Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020.

Volunteers 18+ years and older who have general construction or carpentry skills or are willing to learn, are needed to help rebuild homes (insulation, flooring, painting, framing, taping, etc.) **Two opportunities to help are offered on Wednesday, September 14, and Thursday, September 15.** To register (required) or for more information, contact Sharon Sgriccia at isaiasrecoveryvolunteers@gmail.com.

JAMES MEN’S MINISTRY (JMM)

Breakfast gatherings start at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month, September through May. Their next meeting will be held **Saturday, September 17**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton.

CELEBRATE 275 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Members of Christ Mertz Lutheran Church in Dryville invite you to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the foundation of the congregation on **Sunday, September 18, at 9:00 a.m.** The Rev. Richard Miller will join them to splash a bit of Pennsylvania German into the liturgy. Following the service, you are invited to share: a pig roast with all the fixings, music, games, and self-guided tours of the cemetery.

Not able to attend the worship? You are still invited to join in the festivities. If you do plan to come, please let the church office know at 610.682.7664 or sign up at

<https://cmlc275anniversarycelebration.eventbrite.com>.

Something you might not know or remember: Christ Mertz is New Jerusalem’s mother church. We became an offshoot in 1840.

CHOIR REHEARSAL begins on **Tuesday, September 13, at 5:30 p.m.** Do you like to sing? We can always use more voices to help sing the Lord’s praises. Please consider joining us.

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERS OF SUPPORT for Linda Moyer who has finally received a new leg and is learning how to use it.

Members and friends of New Jerusalem will again be helping out at **THE FRENCH FRY STAND AT THE OLEY FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 15TH**. Stop by and say hi!

CANDIDATE FORUM, September 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

You are warmly invited to a Candidate Forum to be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fleetwood. Republican and Democratic candidates running for United States Senate, Pennsylvania Governor and Lieutenant Governor as well as for the 4th, 6th and 9th district Congressional races have been invited. Each candidate will have a limited number of minutes to speak, questions from the audience that have been screened by the committee will be posed, and each candidate will be encouraged to address comments, wherever possible, relating to the U.S. Constitution.

COMMUNION ON THE PARKING LOT

We invite you to join us for Communion on the Parking Lot on **Saturday, September 17, at 5:00 p.m.** If the weather appears questionable, we will meet in the church building.

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the September newsletter is **Sunday, September 18**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

BREAKFAST FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Come out and share breakfast with our local firefighters from the Lyons Fire Company on **Saturday, October 1, from 8:00-10:00 a.m.** The volunteer firefighters and their families will be joining us as we thank them for their service and dedication in keeping our communities safe. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.



- Breakfast for Firefighters, New Jerusalem, October 1, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
- Campfire with the Boy Scouts, New Jerusalem, October 15, 3:00-8:00 p.m.
- Dedication of Restored Bells, Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers, November 5
- Game Night and Potluck Supper, New Jerusalem, November 12, 5:30 p.m.

NO ONE DIES ALONE

Mother Teresa once said, "No one should die alone . . . each human should die with the sight of a loving face.

To help make this a reality, the staff of The Lutheran Home is providing training for individuals willing to sit with a resident who is actively dying. Volunteers fill in when family members are traveling to arrive, need a respite, or are unable to be present. Following a resident's passing, Chaplain Kristula will contact the volunteer for debriefing and any other need for follow-up. To learn more, contact the Chaplain's office.

SUPPORT FOR QUENTIN BERNHARD



A member of New Life Lutheran Church in New Tripoli, Quentin will be serving as a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) for the 2022-2023 year. He will be living and serving in Senegal from late summer 2022 through late summer

2023. In the entire ELCA, there are only 25 young adults in the 2022-23 YAGM service year.

YAGM is a program of the ELCA focused on young adults and global ministry. The program is an opportunity for faith formation, personal growth, intercultural understanding, living simply, fellowship, and accompaniment with our siblings in another part of the world.

Each YAGM has been asked to fundraise as part of their discerning and embracing God's call to serve. Supporters can make checks payable to "ELCA Global Mission" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8809. To give by credit or debit card, <https://community.elca.org/yagm/give> and click on the dropdown menu to find Quentin Bernhard's name. Or you can give by phone at 1.800.638.3522. More information about the YAGM program can be found on the ELCA website at <https://www.elca.org/yagm>. You can also view a YAGM video from Quentin on New Life's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/FenFvYDCOis>.

"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."

—B. B. King



september

WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Altar Flower Sponsors:

September 4 – Bluegrass Worship/Concert @ Hope
 September 11 – Dale Schwoyer
 September 18 – Dale Schwoyer
 September 25 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors:

September 4 – Bluegrass Worship/Concert @ Hope
 September 11 – Virginia Guinther
 September 18 – Gladys Kline
 September 25 – Gladys Kline

Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:

Elaine Seip

Children’s Bulletin Sponsor:

sponsor needed

Altar Guild Volunteer(s):

volunteer needed

Communion Bread Sponsor:

September 11 – Gladys Kline

Communion Set-up Volunteer:

September 11 – *volunteer needed*

Readers for August:

September 4 – Bluegrass Worship/Concert
 September 11 – Sara Jane Beshore
 September 18 – Ty Rissmiller
 September 25 – Sara Jane Beshore

- 2 Dawn Wartzenuft
- 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



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 David and Dawn Wartzenuft (25 years)
- 9 Randy and Luann Bennecoff (50 years)
- 20 Ronald and Wilma Herman (47 years)

**A NEW FACEBOOK OPPORTUNITY—
 CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS**

There’s a new Facebook page on the block. Congregations in the Brandywine Heights area, who have joined together as Congregational Conversations, have put this together to share news and events. Together we can spread the news that “God is in our land.” Check it out!

Click on the following link below and be sure to “Like” and “Follow” the Congregational Conversations page to stay up to date on the latest worship services and events happening in our local congregations.



<https://www.facebook.com/BrandywineHeightsChurches>

Thank you

Dear members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, thank you very much for your recent food donation to the Brandywine Food Pantry. We appreciate your support. Sincerely, *The Brandywine Food Pantry*

“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

REJOICING SPIRITS—A NEW MINISTRY IN OUR AREA

For the past two and a half years several members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Kutztown, along with neighboring congregations have been working towards establishing a monthly worship service and fellowship opportunity for individuals with cognitive disabilities and their families and friends. The first service will be **October 2, 2022 at 3 p.m.** at **St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 47 South Whiteoak Street, Kutztown.** The sanctuary, fellowship hall, restrooms and kitchen are all located on one floor and accessible.

This worship service is “shush-free,” meaning Rejoicers (participants) may participate in ways they feel comfortable. This could include standing, clapping, shouting out, and speaking freely. The service is filled with music and singing, centered around a short Bible verse or thought for the day. It also includes a Bible story or brief sermon (3-4 minutes). Time is provided for Rejoicers to socialize. The Rejoicers actively participate in the worship service by reading scripture, leading prayers, and singing songs of praise.

Volunteers are needed to share in the endeavor. So, if you have peace like a river, joy like a fountain and a love for Jesus in your soul, your help would be greatly appreciated to greet and welcome Rejoicers and their families, help them get a name tag, accompany them into the fellowship hall, plan simple snacks and activities, participate in the worship, and help clean up. Volunteer sheets are available at church or can be emailed to you.

If you have any questions, contact Karen Raudenbush at 610-608-8290 or email at raudyk@gmail.com; Charlene Fisher at 610-223-9822 or email at charflsh@verzon.net; or Erin Webb at 610-894-9949 or email at emwebb05@aol.com.

For more information, click here: https://webmail.windstream.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=74692&part=3

Please note, the volunteer form can be filled out electronically online or printed, filled in and submitted through email or mail.

For the volunteer form: https://webmail.windstream.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=74692&part=2



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Lori Eck who died on July 27 after a long illness. Lori was Dot Turner's daughter. She and Jack Eck were married for 35 years. For those who didn't know her, Lori loved flowers, cooking for family and friends, and making the area around her beautiful.

It's always hard to lose a family member, especially one's child or a long-term companion. As we reach out to comfort and support Dot and Jack, we ourselves remember the hope in which we live, that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and those who believe in him will not perish, but have eternal life.

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY

With the help of a Thrivent Grant our busy shoppers were able to obtain 156 items to donate to the Food Pantry last month. These were supplemented by additional items as well as fresh fruits and vegetables from our members. At present more than 30 family units and over 70 individuals are relying on the food bank for assistance.

Help, of course, is an ongoing need.

Donated items most helpful right now:

coffee (regular), instant coffee, fruit juices (all kinds), sugar, flour, cooking oil, evaporated milk, Spam, canned chicken and dumplings, beef stew, scalloped /other potato products, pasta and rice sides, Chef Boyardee-style canned foods, soups (ready- to-serve, vegetable beef, New England clam chowder), spaghetti sauce (plain and with meat), Hamburger and Tuna Helper, pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit, salad dressings, ketchup, mayonnaise, snacks of all kinds (including pretzels, chips, pudding, cookies, etc.)

Personal Care Items: toothbrushes, combs, brushes, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner

Cleaning and Disinfectant Products: including dish soap and laundry detergent.



REPORT ON THE MAJESTICS

If you missed the Majestics concert at Longswamp Township Pavilion on July 30, you missed a good time! The weather was perfect. Thank you, God!

This event was spearheaded and organized by our Stewardship Committee. Area congregations, who are part of Ministries with Seniors, helped provide the supplies, the food to be sold, and volunteers. What a wonderful witness of what congregations can do when we join together!

As best we could count, 150 to 175 people attended. Folks came and went throughout the evening and some even brought their dogs.

As to how it went: A few folks were literally dancing in the aisles and a lot more were clapping and moving in their seats. One of them got up on a bench to dance. (Lots of us held our breath, hoping he wouldn't fall). Most poignant was when one of our members danced with her elderly father. He was totally with it and they *were moving*. Then, to top that, he slow danced with his wife. It was hard not to tear up while trying to take a picture.

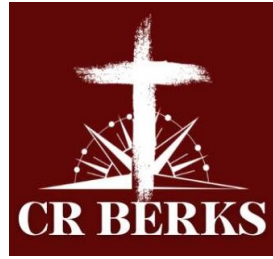


Thanks to generous donations of desserts and drinks and other items and volunteer servers, food sales were good. Our chefs not only braved the heat of the grill, but only had a few hot dogs that weren't fit to be put on a bun and were saved for Sugar the dog. Did you know the most popular hot dogs were the really, really, almost burnt to a crisp, ones? Maybe they remind folks of a campfire.

Not only did we cover our expenses, but between the Thrivent Grant, food sales, and donations we had a surplus of over \$500 which will be donated to the Brandywine Food Pantry. On top of that, as we passed the bucket for donations, more than one person asked whether we were going to have other concerts, even this summer. One said, "This was really good, and we older folks need something to do." So, not only did people really appreciate the concert, but, besides being a lot of fun, doing things like this really does serve a need.

Thank you to everyone who helped pull this off. Together we made it happen.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY (CR BERKS)



Shawn Rohrbach and his wife, Erin, are starting a new ministry at Redeemer Bible Fellowship Church in Topton called Celebrate Recovery. Meetings are held on **Friday nights at 7:00 p.m.** in the Pioneer Grange Hall, 46 E. Keller Street, Topton.

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program to help people of the community and beyond find freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. We all struggle with some kind of hurt, whether it be depression, anxiety, addiction, loneliness, food issues, alcoholism, parents/family members of addicted children, PTSD, codependency, and the list goes on). They use the 12-steps of recovery and biblical comparisons as well as the Celebrate Recovery 8 Principles based on the Beatitudes. This is a safe place to come together to gain freedom and find healing from those struggles, hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Confidentiality and anonymity are taken very seriously.

There are no dues or fees to join, but they do accept a love offering. No registration is necessary. All you have to do is show up!

If you have any questions, please call 484.349.8415. You can also check out their website at www.crberks.org or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CRBerks>.

ALWAYS ROOM IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Jesus told a parable about a man who invited his friends and neighbors to a banquet, but they declined. So he told his servants to go find anyone who was hungry or lonely or in need. Still there was room. "Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in," the host said, "so that my house will be full" (Luke 14:23, NIV).

In *Searching for Sunday*, Rachel Held Evans retells this story and writes: "This is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said *yes*. And there's always room for more." We're all "outcasts and oddballs" in one way or another! May we know that God warmly invites us to his banquet — for no reason but that we're hungry.

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

PREPAREDNESS – IT’S NOT JUST FOR BOY SCOUTS

September is Disaster Preparedness Month. No one plans on experiencing a disaster, but we can plan to be prepared. Not only are those who are prepared better able to care for themselves, they are more likely to be able to help others. Below is a reminder of what you should have on hand.

What to keep in a “Go Kit”

A “go kit” is literally a container you can grab on your way out the door. It can also provide what you would need for a few days if you are told to “shelter in place.” Be sure to check your kit regularly and replace any expired items.

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food for each family member)
- Prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Masks (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes.
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Cash or traveler’s checks (ATMs may not work)
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Paper and pencil

In addition: consider adding the following items based on your individual needs:

- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account

records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container (see below)

- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Fire extinguisher
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

Protect your personal finances

Collect, copy, and store your financial information and documents you might need. Then, keep a copy with your go kit in a waterproof container and/or store your copies somewhere other than your house – in a secure place at work or with a trusted relative or friend. If you have access to a computer, you can scan your documents and then put them on a flash drive or store the information at a secure online storage website.

Remember to update the information regularly.

Items to include:

- Account numbers and customer service numbers, including investments
- Income tax information (pay stubs and employer benefits records)
- Personal records like driver’s licenses, passports, social security cards, birth certificates, marriage and divorce papers, home titles or deeds, car, boat, or RV registrations and titles, wills, living wills, trusts, financial and medical powers of attorney)
- Room-by-room inventory of your belongings. While a printed list can be helpful, taking pictures that are stored on a flash drive or on the cloud can be very helpful in making insurance claims.
- Insurance information. Property and medical benefits.
- Computer files. Regularly backup financial records, passwords, family photos, and videos. Consider using secure cloud storage service, or keep the backups somewhere safe. Secure and copy important papers. Keep the originals in a water-tight container, fire safe, or a bank safe deposit box. If you keep your documents at home, be sure you can grab them before you leave.

Since you never know when an emergency might occur, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car and keep your car in good repair.

For more information, go to <https://www.ready.gov>

NEWS FROM TANZANIA

Remember the stove we helped Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA) to purchase so that students at Olchoki Primary School outside Arusha could have lunch? Rick and Pastor Ruth had visited this school in 2016 and witnessed how a cook had been trying to prepare an oatmeal-like meal over a wood fire on the ground and heard how she could only provide one meal a day and only for the children who were orphaned. The rest of the students received no food for the entire school day, even though many of them had very little to eat at home. When our members heard about this, we decided to raise the funds to provide one of three stoves needed for the school.



In October 2018 Jason Bergmann, Director of OBA, visited the very simple yet remarkable new kitchen facility. While impressed with what OBA funds had been able to accomplish, he learned, to his dismay, that the parents had not been able to come up with the money to pay for the lunch program, so the students were not getting a meal. When Jason returned to the US, planning began to partner with the community: parents would pay for the firewood and cooks for the lunch program and OBA would pay for the groceries.

It took time to iron out the details, but by January 2020 lunch was being provided daily to the 14,000 students as well as staff. Attendance immediately improved. Laughter once again echoed through the school yard as the students sat and ate together and



then ran and played after eating. Lethargy was far behind them. Teachers were also impressed by the rise in students' test scores. Since then, OBA has

provided 656,000 meals to students at Olchoki Primary School, thanks, in part, to the stove we were able to provide.

In addition to providing meals at Olchoki, since October 2020, OBA has provided over 479,000 meals to children in 5 schools in southern Madagascar. Not a single drop of rain had fallen in that area for over 3 years, over 1.6 million people had no access to food or water, and students at the

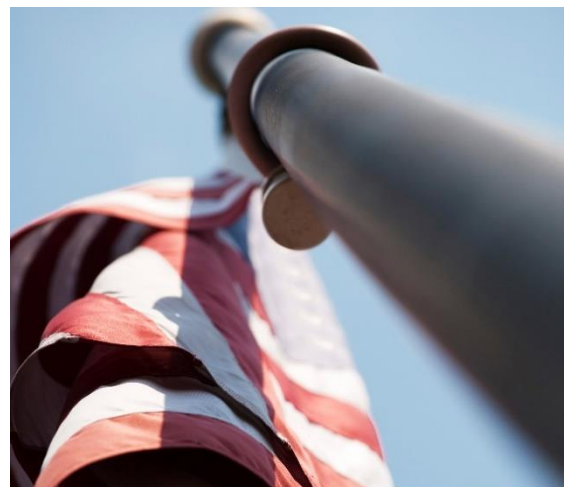
OBA schools were literally dying. Since starting the feeding program, no more students have been lost to malnutrition and attendance has risen by 68%. Each year OBA provides over 900,000 meals to students in East Africa. The meals are often the only ones the students can count on. Cost per child: 20 cents.

For more news, information, or to donate to Operation Bootstrap, check out their website at <https://operationbootstrapafrica.org>.



Madagascar Lunch Program

*Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA) was founded in 1965 by Lutheran Missionary Pastor J. David Simonson and has been serving Africans for over 50 years. The organization is rooted in a "bootstrap" philosophy of **helping people help themselves**. This not-for-profit organization partners with Africans to strengthen their future through education, healthcare, agriculture, and other long-term development projects. Information for this report taken from the summer 2022 annual report of "Dignity," the OBA newsletter.*



Patriot Day
September 11

THE HISTORY OF 'APRONS'

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few.

It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.



When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids...

And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER: Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the windowsill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the windowsill to thaw. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron—but love.

- author unknown

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

July 31, 2022

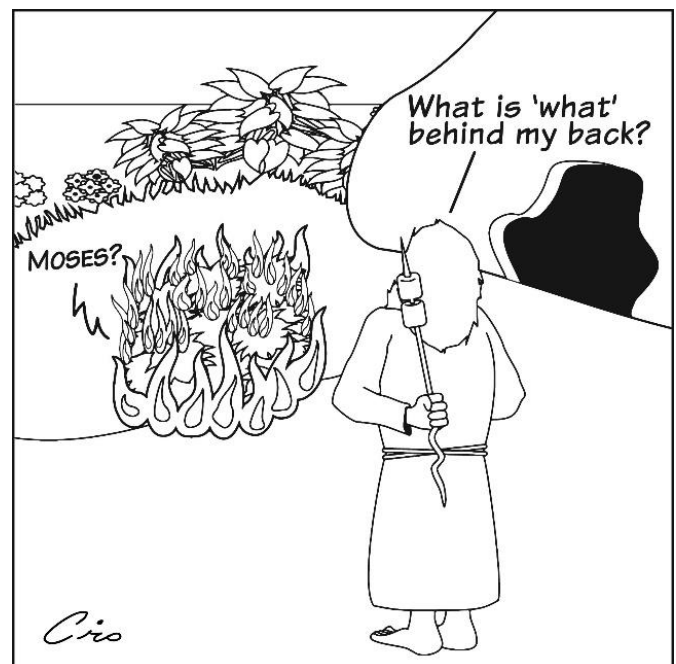
<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 17,765.92
Thrivent	9,612.24
Checking	2,109.03
Youth	408.64
Fidelity	50,160.92
Cash Reserve	39,419.63
Mission Investment Fund	11,647.31
Local Care	<u>2,390.31</u>
	Total: <u>\$ 133,514.00</u>

Total Balance of Asset Accounts
from **July 31, 2021** \$ 155,866.94

July 2022 – 'Actual' vs. 'Required' Income

	Income		
	Required	Actual	
<u>Income Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,891.25	\$ 4,475.40	(\$ 5,415.85)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2022
Budget Passed by Congregation
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*



LIFE STEWARDSHIP LESSONS FROM THE DANES

And Jesus said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'

– Luke 12:15

The people of Denmark, about six million living in a nation smaller than West Virginia, routinely count among the world's most contented. This year's World Happiness Report ranks the Danes No. 2, behind Finland. The United States ranks 19.

What do the Danes know that we don't?

Several key principles for living help explain Danish happiness, Meik Wiking, chief executive officer of the Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, told the *New York Times*:

Decoupling wellbeing from wealth. Jesus did teach us that our lives do not consist in the abundance of possessions, though our consumer culture relentlessly tells us otherwise. How much happier would Americans be if our culture taught us to be content regardless of our wealth?

Hygge. This is a Danish term that Wiking describes as “the art of enjoying the simple pleasures in life.” Getting together with friends, enjoying the outdoors, experiencing joy with family, finding peace in your own home – things that are readily at hand, without fuss or expense.

High levels of trust. Scandinavians tend to trust one another and their institutions. “We consider the collective ‘we’ versus ‘me,’” Amy Clotworthy, a professor at the University of Copenhagen, told the *Times*.

As Christians looking for guidance on how we can be good stewards of our lives, these principles provide inspiration and guidance. How might you incorporate them into your life?

--Rob Blezard

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enjoy
the
little
things

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Myles Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Shirley Hertzog, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members: Holly Allen, Erma Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Rodney Keller, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Horace Rothermel, Dale Schwoyer, and Gabriele Sanders.

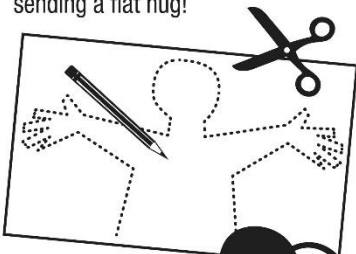
Friends of the congregation: Charlie Ackerman, John Arndt, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Earl Derr, Katie Didyoung, Rosemary Drey, John Drumheller, Family and friends of Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Chelsea H., Peg H., Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, DeeDee K., Debra Kenny, Taz Kershner, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Harry Naugle, Johnathan Naugle, Randy Schlegel, Willow Schlegel, Tierney Schmeer, Diane Showalter, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Sptaz, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Raymond Wright, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Gabby, Jason, Lynn, Meaghan, Mike, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

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

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

Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



What you do:

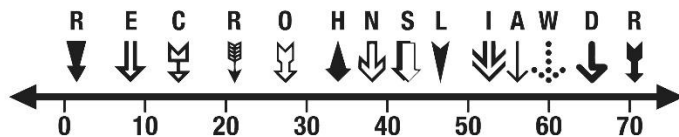
1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.



A full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.



Like _____
56 21 71 28 60 42

in the hands of a warrior are

14 33 52 47 65 2 9 39

born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

Answers: arrows, children

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Camp
Noah

STRONGER
Together

So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families... God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

(Genesis 8:18-19; 9:12-13)

Following the flood – a disaster horrific in scope and cause – God brought forth a time and a place, where healing and renewal could begin. Camp Noah is a ministry, carrying on in God's covenantal promises of care and life, especially for families and especially for children whose loved ones may no longer be there to protect and nurture them. The "ark" that gets built, comes in the form of congregations and volunteers, along with professionals in counseling and in faith, who create a safe and supportive environment – where, for a day or a week, children can gather to run and play, draw and paint, sing and listen, pray and build new connections of love and care, new trust that God loves them and that the future can be better, brighter and bolder than the past. Christ is the rainbow and the rock, that provides new colors to paint and safe waters to drink and to splash in, without fear of drowning in grief and despair. As the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, we are honored and grateful to take part in this life-giving ministry, offering our resources, our time and our spaces, to make a bright new day for these kids, these families, and "for all future generations."

+ Bishop Christopher deForest

Have you ever felt overwhelmed and unable to cope with a situation? There have been times during covid that many have felt that way—worry about those who were sick—concerned for families who had lost someone. It was hard enough for adults—but what about children? Camp Noah is a Lutheran camping organization run out of Minnesota that provides weeklong camp experiences for children who have experienced traumatizing natural disasters like tornados, floods, hurricanes—and covid. This past summer, just such a camp was held in Oley, PA. Camp Noah provided a week of fun and engaging experiences through books, crafts, music, art, and games that allowed kids to express their feelings and concerns regarding covid. One young camper said, “this camp has been a blessing.” And it was! Everyone involved—including adult volunteers—felt the healing presence of God among them! Thank you to the many congregations whose Mission Support dollars to the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod provided grant money to help fund Camp Noah. It really was a blessing to all!

+ Pastor Julie Osterhout,
Trinity Lutheran-Wernersville



SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	3
4 13th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am-Bluegrass Worship Service at Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers - (We will not be meeting in our building that day.)	5 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. LABOR DAY	6 9:00am-Worship & Music Committee Mtg.	7 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	8 9:30-11:00am- Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton 10:00am-Coloring Group	9 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	10 10:00-12:00pm-Faith Formation Session
11 14th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion ▪ Fellowship after worship 2:00pm-Blue Mountain Chorus, St. Paul's, Mertztown PATRIOT DAY	12 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 1:30pm-Preparing for Paradise, Henry Auditorium, Lutheran Home, Topton 7:00pm-Council Meeting	13 5:30pm – Choir Rehearsals 6:00-8:00pm-Sacred Ground (dialogue series on race and faith), Trinity Lutheran Reading	14 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	15 OLEY FAIR – French Fry Stand (3 shifts) 10:00am-2:00pm 2:00pm-6:00pm 6:00pm-10:00pm	16 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	17 8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Topton 5:00pm-Communion on the Parking Lot
18 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	20	21 12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	22 9:30-11:00am- Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN	23 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	24
25 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am-Worship ▪ Fellowship after worship	26 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 6:00pm-Congregational Conversations, St. Paul's Mertztown	27 6:00-8:00pm-Sacred Ground (dialogue series on race and faith), Trinity Lutheran Reading	28 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	29	30 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	