



As the Jordan Flows

A Newsletter for Jordan Family and Friends

June, 2020

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Another month has passed us by since we have been able to gather together in the sanctuary to worship, to chat with each other in the Memory Room after worship, to celebrate the joys of birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, and other life giving events. Nor have we been able to gather to support one another in our times of grieving with funerals or Memorial Services in our sanctuary. The hallways have not been filled with joy or laughter, the choir room sits empty, folders in place at the side of chairs where members have left them, and the Sunday School rooms are vacant of children's curious minds and laughter.

The first I was in the sanctuary since we have been sheltered at home was about three weeks ago. I stood looking at the empty pews. Silence filled the sanctuary and the Lenten paraments remained in place like out of a science fiction movie where all the people have just disappeared. I stood there with Jim, overcome with emotion and I cried!

Like all of you, I miss all that is familiar, all that is filled with life of our faith as we gather. And yet, we have not gathered because God commands us to love one another. It is out of the love and concern for the other that we have not met in our sanctuary in order to keep each other safe and healthy from the Covid-19 pandemic. And we will continue to do so until it is safe.

Some are anxiously waiting for us to open the doors of the church building, anxious and eager to worship the way we use to pre-Covid-19. As we get closer to the June 5th yellow phase, there is a sense of the flood gates wanting to open, that we can return to normal. But that is not the case. Nor is it the case because the elected leader of our country says we can now open the churches!

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, the church has never been closed! Our building, yes. But the church of our risen Savior and Lord NEVER closes. It has never done so in 2000 plus years! The disciples never gave up when Christ was crucified either. They kept serving. Yes, they were afraid at times, but when Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would lead them, they became the church. They continued to build on the foundation that Jesus laid out for them. Loving one another. Serving others who were oppressed, less fortunate; helping to heal others; they continued to teach and preach the Good News of Christ.

Our doors to our building may be closed for now. But Christ's church is never closed. We have continued and will continue to BE the church in this new way as we continue to teach, preach, serve, and share the Good News of Christ. We will stay connected through whatever means there are, reaching out to each other not just on a Sunday morning, but throughout the week, always in safe ways.

We are currently putting together a task force to review the various documents/guidelines, the CDC recommendations as well as those recommendations from our Bishops of NEPA Synod and the ELCA, to develop a strategy and safe measure, so that when it is safe for us to return, we will do so prepared in the best manner we are able to in order to ensure your well-being.

**CELEBRATING
GOD
CONNECTING
PEOPLE**

Until then, please continue to pray for the leadership of our congregation, for the staff including me as your pastor, and for all our members and those in our communities. Pray for all humanity that we will be able to live in God's peace, working toward a common ground of unity and well-being!

Lifting you all in prayer!

Pastor Dody



May 26, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Church Council would like to thank our congregation for your faithfulness in giving from January through April of this calendar year, through all that has occurred. As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we applied for the SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan offered by the Federal government through our local bank BB&T (now Truist) in order to help cover our personnel expenses.

We had applied for the PPP SBA loan in the first round in early April but did not hear anything during this initial application. It was not until the second round of applications when we received notification from BB&T that we would be receiving money from the PPP SBA Loan which we did receive on May 13, 2020 for an amount of \$ 47,400.00. The Federal Government has designated this Paycheck Protection Program, an SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, for at least an 8-week period as long as we keep our employees employed and do not furlough anyone. Currently, the PPP SBA money is a loan at 1% interest which is deferred for 6 months (November) when interest starts accruing. We have two (2) years to repay the loan amount if it is not forgiven as a grant.

The next phase in the PPP SBA process is to apply for the grant forgiveness from BB&T once our 8-week period is completed on July 8, 2020. It is our hope that we do qualify as a grant and not stay as a loan. So currently our employee payroll expenses and our utilities (electric & oil) are being paid for through PPP SBA loan funds. We are required to separately track all these expenses for the necessary documentation by BB&T to show that we have met their qualifications first for the loan and second for a possible conversion to a grant.

Therefore, on the Monthly Treasurer's Report, the dollar amounts may show a reduced expense amount for the Payroll and the Property-Utilities, grounds, etc. line items in the expenses section of the report. All these expenses are now being tracked separately from our normal income and expense records in our financial practices (PowerChurch software) and on this monthly spread sheet report. Currently the April Treasurer's Report shows a deficit for the YTD (year to date) of (\$ 8,434.00). In the future Treasurer's Reports (May, June & July), we will most likely be reporting a surplus amount in the YTD column for something close to an amount equivalent to the normal monthly payroll expenses plus our utilities.

We are currently retaining these Surplus dollar amounts that we have collected and keeping those Funds in the Operating Income line item. Council has decided to place a hold on these surplus dollars until we find out if the PPP SBA loan will become a grant or not. Otherwise, we will have to pay this loan back and these dollars will be a good start on repaying.

We understand folks may be having difficulty giving at this time due to unemployment, layoffs, and/or just lower income, but we do appreciate your continued support, as you are able, in giving in the future.

The Finance Committee:

Karl Kroboth

Bill Hendricks

John Weremedic

Ken Gross

and Jeff Laudenslager (President of Church Council)

From Our Organist, Susan Hartney



The Lutheran Church, from the time of Martin Luther to the present, has a strong tradition of singing hymns during worship. The hymns we sing range from the early forms to current times, the texts of which vary from songs of exultant joy to those of lament.

During the unusual times which we are enduring, I am finding myself being drawn more and more to hymns of hope and assurance. One of my favorite hymns is *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*.

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty, hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

The text was written in 1745 by Welsh Methodist William Williams (1717 – 1791). Originally written in Welsh, it was translated to English by Peter Williams (no relation to William Williams). Williams referenced Exodus in verse 2 (“where the healing waters flow” and “fire and cloudy pillar”) and Joshua in verse 3 (crossing the River Jordan and arrival at Canaan).

The tune, *Cwm Rhondda*, the Welsh name for the Rhondda Valley, was written in 1905 and revised in 1907, by John Hughes (1873 – 1932). The first tune was for a Welsh hymn festival (Gymfana Ganu) in Pontypridd. The present form was first played for the inauguration of an organ, played by Hughes, at Capel Rhondda in Hopkinstown in the Rhondda Valley.

This hymn is beloved by people of many faiths and has been sung for joyous as well as sad occasions; it was sung at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997, and when her son, Prince William, married Catherine Middleton in 2011. The words of comfort and peace, of our challenging journey on earth to the promise of blissful eternity, wedded to a beautiful tune, have resonated through the years. May we continue to be blessed by it for years to come.

Thank you

Dear Fellow Members in Christ at Jordan Lutheran, Imagine my surprise when I received birthday cards during my quarantine in Florida. Being this far away from my home, family and friends has been challenging. The many cards received have reinforced the kindness, caring, sharing, and love Jordan Lutheran embers have for God and one another.

Thank you!
Chris Heilman

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to the Sixth Street Shelter which was received on April 23rd. The Shelter has been serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness for over 30 years. Last year the Shelter was able to shelter 100 families (344 people, 210 of whom were children). Residents at the Shelter learn how to solve their own problems and to take advantage of opportunities for personal growth through support programs, computer labs, financial education, life skills development, group activities, and tutoring.

You are an important part of our work, and we are truly grateful for your involvement and support.

Kristine Blasco
Director

Mary Ann Sandrock sends thanks on behalf of the LVH-Cedar Crest Peri-Op Dept. for the mask extenders that members of Jordan crocheted for them. They are extremely appreciative!

Heartfelt gratitude to the Jordan family for encouraging, checking in, and recognizing your frontline workers. We are grateful and blessed for your support! Prayers are extended for your continued safety and well-being!

Andrea Russell

Helpful Things to Know:

- The office is still open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon, to take your phone calls, drop off your offering envelopes, etc. Every effort will be made to keep contact to a minimum.
- Please see our website and Facebook pages to keep up to date with Sunday School. There will be a live stream on Sunday at 9:15 a.m. for the younger classes, and there is a ZOOM link on the website (you will also receive invite by email) for the Confirmation class students.

We send our gratitude to those who continue to faithfully make their offerings so that we may be ready, unafraid and able to return to regular ministry when life gets back to normal!

Jordan is pleased to offer electronic giving options to our members. Members can make a one-time donation, or establish a recurring giving profile through the convenience of their computer or mobile phone. We highly recommend that at this time you prayerfully consider using online giving.

Here is how you sign up:

WEBSITE – go to www.jordanlutheran.org click on the **SUPPORT** tab, then **Electronic Giving** and you will be offered two options to set up your electronic giving

GIVE+ PLUS (a free, secure phone app) download this free app to your mobile phone, search by zip code 18069 and when you see Jordan, follow the instructions to make your donation.

The applications are part of the Vanco family of products, handling payment processing since 1998, hosting over 20,000 churches, and conforming to the latest Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards. Members using Simply Giving are already familiar with the convenience of online giving.

Of course you may continue making your offering via US mail or drop off in person at the office on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.



Church Picnic

Please be advised that 4 F Celebration scheduled for June 7th, has not been rescheduled for 2020. We look forward to next year's event!



Learning is a
Treasure
That will follow its owner
Everywhere.

Chinese Proverb

Alex Boscia graduated from Parkland High School. He is the son of Julie & Chris Boscia. Alex plans to attend LCCC.

Rachael Hendricks, the daughter of Bill & Linda Hendricks, received her Doctor of Musical Arts in Clarinet Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She served as the Graduate Assistant in Clarinet during her doctoral studies and has been sought out as an orchestral and chamber musician, most recently performing with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra. She was a finalist for the 2019 International Clarinet Association Orchestral Audition Competition. Rachael currently teaches private clarinet and saxophone lessons in Ohio and plans to continue teaching as well as applying for collegiate teaching positions and auditioning for orchestras and military bands.

Julia Krueger graduated from Bloomsburg University with degrees in Early Childhood Education K-4 and Deaf/Hard of Hearing PK-12. She was selected as College of Education Outstanding Senior in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education and graduated with honors. Julia is the daughter of Tammy & Mark Krueger and the granddaughter of Terry & Sharon Naugle. She plans to seek employment in her field.

Our Jordan family wishes all the best to these and all others who graduated this year!



Pastor Dody will be on vacation June 15th through 21st.

Pastor Gade will be available in the event of an emergency. Contact him at 610-428-6300 if needed.

Please join Pr. Dody on **Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.** as we gather to do a Bible Study on Zoom. We are going to try and see how this works as we look at 1 Peter during the month of May (or how long it takes). Please email me at prdody@gmail.com to let me know of your interest. I will then send you the link to zoom to be able to attend. Please contact me no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday in order for me to send the info.

DON'T BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU. I WILL HOLD YOU UP WITH MY VICTORIOUS RIGHT HAND. ISAIAH 41:10

*In compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines to remain at home when possible, **no services will be held in the sanctuary until further notice.** Beginning June 7th, our live streamed worship service will take place at 9:15 a.m. (similar to our usual summer time change). Check for the links in your email, the website, or on Facebook. You may also see the recorded worship service and past services on both Facebook and the webpage at any time.*

NOTE: It is RECOMMENDED that you save and/or print these instructions for future reference!

On Sunday, May 17th, we experienced some issues with Zoom Meeting functionality during our worship service. You will be happy to know that the problems have been resolved. There was actually a global Zoom outage that we were affected by (<https://www.digitaltrends.com/news/zoom-outage-17-may/>). This was further complicated by the fact that Zoom released version 5.0 of their application and many folks were being forced to upgrade before they could start the meeting.

Now we need to get all of you ready upcoming services! Below is IMPORTANT INFORMATION you need to know:

1. First, please take the time to update your Zoom application on your device (computer, smartphone or tablet) BEFORE our next Zoom meeting
 - a. To update the app on your computer, visit [Download Zoom 5.0](#). Click on the Download button Zoom Client for Meetings and run the install.
 - b. To update the app on your smartphone or tablet, visit either the App Store (Apple iOS) or Google Play (Android) to update the Zoom app on your device.
 - c. For the best results, please restart/reboot your computer, smartphone or tablet after installing the new app.

2. There is a NEW recurring meeting for our regular Sunday Worship Service called "NEW SUNDAY Jordan Worship Meeting". The details for this Zoom meeting are below:

Topic: NEW SUNDAY Jordan Worship Meeting

Time: Every Sunday (May 24th at 10:30am and beginning June 7th at 9:15am)

Link to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81455907428?pwd=dGM5MnJMbmtPbGl4aWROSkxqWTVOdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5590 7428

Password: 468197

New Audio Only: You can call into the meeting using your phone by calling 1 646 876 9923 and entering the above Meeting ID and Password when prompted. Note: Long distance charges may apply if you do not have long distance minutes on your plan/service.

3. In the event of another Sunday morning Zoom outage that interrupts our normal worship, we have also *proactively* scheduled a "CONTINGENCY SUNDAY Jordan Worship Meeting ONLY IF NEEDED" for Sunday evenings at 7:00pm. This meeting will ONLY be used if needed and allows everyone to be prepared and have the alternate meeting information ahead of time. The details for this Zoom meeting are below:

Topic: CONTINGENCY SUNDAY Jordan Worship Meeting ONLY IF NEEDED

Time: Every Sunday starting Sunday, May 24th @ 7:00pm ONLY IF NEEDED

Link to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82962738749?pwd=a21zY1QwOENYNTdGcXYxTIN0WEk4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 829 6273 8749

Password: 377389

New Audio Only: You can call into the meeting using your phone by calling 1 646 876 9923 and entering the above Meeting ID and Password when prompted. Note: Long distance charges may apply if you do not have long distance minutes on your plan/service

Council Highlights - May 14, 2020

April 16, 2020 minutes approved.

Correspondence: None

Christ is Present: Members shared God sightings, joys in their life.

Pastor's Report: (written)

- Wed night Bible Study began May 6th via Zoom. Studying 1 Peter.
- Organizing Re-opening Team, for when it is safe to return.
- VBS Team - planning virtual classes for week of July 13th - 17th. More info to follow.
- Vacation June 14th - 21st.

Chris Ed Dir: (no report) - see above for VBS.

Due to Covid -19 not many committees are active. However, the following gave reports.

Technology: looking to firm up a solid committee. Will focus on how to continue to broadcasting services even when we can gather. Looking for volunteers with skills to serve.

Property: Mulching completed, Emergency siren installed in sanctuary, water heater replaced and other maintenances are being done.

Outreach/Mission: Cards continue to be sent to those with anniversaries of 50+, Birthdays 80+.

- 4F Outdoor Worship/Picnic on June 7th has been cancelled to Covid-19.
- GWOH is scheduled for Sept 20th. May have to be creative this year.

Treasurer Report:

- Balance for April 2020 was a deficit (\$9,733.00) and YTD is a deficit (\$8,434.00). However, it was noted that April 2019 was (\$17,753) and 2019 April YTD (\$22,881). Easter occurred in April both years.
- The CARES Protection Payment Loan was approved by the SBA for \$47,400. Monies received May 13, 2020. This will be utilized for staff payroll for the next eight weeks. Letter to congregation will be sent to explain.

Next regular council meeting will be Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. All council meetings are an open meeting and members are invited to attend.

Treasurer's Report for April 2020

	Month	YTD	Budget Amounts	
			Month	YTD
Income:				
Operating Income	\$ 24,445.00	\$ 104,736.00	\$ 28,950.00	\$ 115,800.00
Benevolence	\$ 861.00	\$ 5,951.00	\$ 1,667.00	\$ 6,668.00
Property	\$ 1,943.00	\$ 10,103.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
Deficit Reduction	\$ 716.00	\$ 4,033.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 27,965.00	\$ 124,823.00	\$ 33,117.00	\$ 132,468.00
Expenses:				
Administration	\$ 699.00	\$ 5,190.00	\$ 1,985.00	\$ 7,940.00
Ministries	\$ 27.00	\$ 3,006.00	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 5,748.00
Payroll	\$ 22,099.00	\$ 86,221.00	\$ 22,049.00	\$ 88,196.00
Property-Utilities, grounds, etc	\$ 13,106.00	\$ 31,723.00	\$ 7,942.00	\$ 31,768.00
Benevolence	\$ 1,767.00	\$ 7,117.00	\$ 1,917.00	\$ 7,668.00
Total Expenses	\$ 37,698.00	\$ 133,257.00	\$ 35,330.00	\$ 141,320.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (9,733.00)	\$ (8,434.00)	\$ (2,213.00)	\$ (8,852.00)

Christian Education & Youth News

Jamie Edelman ~ JordanDCE@ptd.net ~ 610-395-5912
<https://www.jordanlutheran.org/faith-formation.html>

Here's what's happening in Christian Education at Jordan during the Covid-19 Pandemic:

- **Sunday School:** Sparkhouse's Family Sunday School videos and downloads will be available on the church website. Regular Zoom classes have ended. We hope to see students in person in classes beginning September 13th.
- **Confirmation:** Zoom classes have ended. If you missed any, you can watch recorded classes available on the church website.
- **Egg Hunt Update:** *It is still our intention to hold the Egg Hunt once we are able to gather together again. If you signed up to donate candy, donations can be dropped off at church during office hours in a contact free manner.*
- **VBS**
 - Online VBS is coming to Jordan!!
 - Online VBS will be held July 13-17, 2020, via Zoom from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
 - We are looking for several volunteers to help us with the daily storytelling. This can be done in a completely contact free manner. Please email Jamie (JordanDCE@ptd.net) or Amber (mamjkerschner@yahoo.com) for more details or to volunteer.
 - Online registration will be available on June 1st via the church website.
 - "VBS Kits" containing craft supplies and daily snacks will be available for contact free pick-up in early July. Participants will be notified of details as the time gets closer.
 - Students registered by June 30th will receive a free one-of-a-kind VBS themed t-shirt.
- **Youth Activity:**
 - We are currently looking into the possibility of holding a *Movie Night*, either via Zoom or possibly "drive-in" style using a projector, a sheet, and a parking lot that will enable us to maintain "social distancing" guidelines.



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

More Stories of Being the Church in a Time of Pandemic



Masks for Health Care Workers

Kourtney Keim from New Life, New Tripoli is a sophomore at Northwestern Lehigh High School. Seeing a need for protective gear for healthcare workers, she organized a community effort to make and distribute masks and headbands.

"It reminds me of the story of the fish and bread where the collections of few created plenty for many. Some members of our group could sew beautifully but had no material. Some had material and no sewing machine. Some had a machine, but not the skills or time

to use it. Some had fabric, others thread, still others (the coveted) elastic. Some had time to cut or money to donate materials. All of these efforts came together to provide more than 7000 masks, and counting."

Masks were donated to Lehigh Valley Health Network, St Lukes Health Network, KidsPeace, visiting nurses, Children and Youth Centers, dialysis centers, rehab clinics, homeless shelters, banks, grocery stores, and others. They have continued to donate to various healthcare workers as well as provide masks available to the general public. Asking for a \$5 donation to a local food pantry in exchange for a mask, they've raised over \$5,000 in just a few weeks - while helping to keep everyone safer.



Muhlenberg Chaplaincy Responds to the Pandemic

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic has shown how very important our grounding in the Lutheran theological tradition lived out in a multi-faith environment has been. At the forefront of decision making, has been the care and support for all people, including students, faculty and staff. While most students left campus by March 16, around 100 students initially remained for various reasons (30 will remain on campus for the summer). In some cases, they are international students unable to travel to their homes, or students with no primary residence outside the college. During the pandemic, the work of the Religious and Spiritual life team of the college has been grounded in a collaborative effort with many different colleagues, to provide care, counseling, support and programming for students online—as well as actively supporting students who have remained on campus.



Here is the story of one student, Kate Ekanem, who remained on campus. "Since the outbreak, I've honestly been in a constant on and off panic mood. I am a first generation student, a single-mother to a six-year-old daughter, and an international student from an economically underserved family in Nigeria. It is the first time in many years that I'll feel like I don't have anything under control because I am afraid of failing in my usual responsibilities to myself, my child and my elderly father back home.

"Since the pandemic, the college has gone beyond what's expected of any institution to express genuine care and love for students like me on campus. I have seen love, felt it deeply, and I cannot begin to explain how my heart bursts in joy to have a school that cares

The Food Pantry at Friedens, Oley

For almost 30 years, **Friedens, Oley** has been serving the surrounding community by hosting a Food Pantry. Allowing clients to enter the building, grab a grocery cart, and shop through the aisles of food was our mode of operation. All that changed during the pandemic! Like many congregations, we struggled how to allow this vital, life sustaining ministry in the midst of fear, regulations and hope. 75% of our food pantry volunteer force were identified as falling in the "most at risk" category. This included our food pantry directors! We did not want to put anyone in danger!

We decided to invite folks in the "least at risk" category to help us continue this important ministry. Our young people stepped up and volunteered with the understanding that strict safety standards and regulations would need to be followed. There was no hesitation! The volunteer hours were long, noon to 8pm. There was unloading trucks, repackaging food into boxes, delivering food to waiting vehicles and clean up all while maintaining physical distancing and wearing a mask and gloves. No time for rest while we created a new way of serving the community.



I like helping with the food pantry because unfortunately, so many people need it. Ethan Hohl (9th grade)



I like that we are helping with the food pantry during COVID-19 because people need food! Jacob Hohl (6th grade)



The Covid 19 pandemic caused me to come home from college. , I was pleased for this opportunity to serve in my community. -Jenna Reed (senior in college)



My grandparents and Mom work during the regular food pantry. Since I do not have school or sports, I have time to help! Kristina Kauffman (10th grade)

Lunch for a Homeless Shelter



St. John's downtown Easton was asked by Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter to provide 24 bagged lunches for people who usually come to the shelter to eat at noon but are not residents of the shelter. Because of the virus and fear of spreading, a table is set up at noon at Safe Harbor and the take away bagged lunches are available (and taken) by people who stop by. Some are homeless, some are temporarily sleeping at the homes of friends, some are food insecure. St. John's adjusted how the lunches were made as the rules of social distancing evolved. They began making the meals every Wednesday at the church and then started making the lunches at individual homes. Vicar Matthew picks the lunches up and transports them to the shelter. The program began March 25 and will continue until Safe Harbor no longer requests the help.

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>.