
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you know, we are quickly approaching the one-year mark that we have had to worship in a reduced manner with guidelines in place like we have never experienced before. Our ReLaunch Team has been diligently watching the numbers of Covid-19 cases in the Lehigh Valley. When we started Lent 2020, we all thought we would be able to worship together in person within a few weeks. Easter came and went last year. Many church gatherings and seasons have come and gone over the last year.

I remember last year saying that when we gather IT WILL BE EASTER! WE WILL do Easter even if it was in July. Sadly, that too came and went!

Coming full circle, we now enter our second year of Lent during the pandemic. We continue to pray that with the vaccines we will soon be able to gather safely together to worship. We are not sure when or how that will be, but we continue to pray that will be soon!

In the meantime, I sense many might feel like the Israelites who wandered in the desert. Our spiritual souls may feel parched and dry. We might feel like we are roaming about our daily life with no real sense of purpose or direction. Many have expressed how difficult it has been keeping track of what day it is! (myself included!)

Our Lenten midweek worship theme this year is "My Well is Dry." I invite you to partake with us on our midweek Wednesday Livestream Worship services to explore the ways the living water helps to restore, replenish and nurtures us as we continue to move forward with the promise of the resurrected hope.

We will have midweek Lenten Bible Study (assuming via zoom at this point) on Wednesday evenings, focusing on "Making Sense of the Cross." This will be offered from 6 -7:30 p.m. (a bit reversed from our traditional schedule). While class appears to overlap with the worship time of 7 p.m., the worship service will be available from 7 p.m. and posted for future participation as well.

As we journey through Lent, our Ash Wednesday service will start us off in the direction of the cross of Christ and eventually to the empty tomb. But first, we must travel through the wilderness, through the days of Lent, in whatever fashion we can, God knowing we are doing our best to nourish the parched soul!

Please be sure to check the remainder of the newsletter for more info on worship times, drive thru communion as well as the Bible Study registration info.

I continue to pray that you and loved ones are well and remain healthy!

**CELEBRATING
GOD
CONNECTING
PEOPLE**

Praying with and for you in His name,
Pastor Dody

CHURCH COUNCIL

2021 Members

Doug Clark
Karen Boardman
Andrew Grim
Ken Gross
Dan Heckman
Erin Klotz (youth rep)
Ingrid Martz
Donna Stark
Jeff Steiner
John Weremedic
Julie Williams

Jordan Lutheran Church

Office Hrs. M-F, 9:00-4:00

CONTACT INFO

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Orefield PA 18069
Phone: 610-395-5912
Fax: 610-395-2423
jordanlutheran@ptd.net
pastorjordanlutheran@ptd.net
www.jordanlutheran.org

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Dody S. Siegfried
Visitation Pastor: Rev. Jerel Gade
Administrator: Monica Unangst
Christian Ed.: Jamie Edelman
Organist: Susan Hartney
Asst Organist: Janice Kistler
Inc/Exp Coord: Barbara Carinci
Bell Choirs: Susan Hartney
Canon Choir: Janice Kistler
Cherub Choir: Marlene Peters
Sexton: Ann Kline

DEADLINES

Newsletter – 15th of the month
prior to publication
Bulletin – 10 a.m. Thursdays

HOSPITAL CODE

256

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February

Due to the ever-changing situation with Covid, please keep watch for updated info which will be sent to you as soon as possible via email and posted on Jordan's webpage and Facebook.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (2/7)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service

10:15-11:00 – Drive-thru Communion

Transfiguration of Our Lord (2/14)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service

Ash Wednesday (2/17)

3:30 pm – Live Streamed Worship Service

4:15-5:00 – Drive-thru Communion

First Sunday in Lent (2/21)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service

Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm (2/24)

Second Sunday in Lent (2/28)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service

All worship services will be live streamed at 9:15 a.m. on the website and Facebook through February 28th.

2021 SPONSORSHIPS

All sponsorships have been temporarily suspended until we are back to live worship. Thanks for understanding!

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-395-0613 or dhahn16@gmail.com with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). **Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the 9:15 service or want them taken to shut-ins.** If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Altar flowers are \$40. Bulletins are \$20. Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.



A Note from Our Organist...

One of my favorite Sundays of the church year is Transfiguration Sunday, which falls on February 14 this year. Observed in the Lutheran church on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it commemorates the time when Jesus brought the disciples Peter, James, and John to the mountain, where they saw him transfigured, or changed, with his face and clothing becoming dazzlingly bright.

The Epiphany season has been called the season of light. One of the best known hymns for Transfiguration that clearly tells the story and includes the language of light is *Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair*, hymn number 316 in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*:

Oh, wondrous image, vision fair of glory that the church may share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh the incarnate Lord holds converse high,
and from the cloud, the Holy One says, "This is my beloved Son."

With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts and raised on high by this great vision's mystery;
for which in joyful song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

O Father, with the eternal Son, and Holy Spirit ever one,
we pray you, bring us by your grace to see your glory face to face.

The 15th century text is from England's Salisbury Cathedral, which is the home of the Sarum rite, which is the Latin liturgical rite used there and in that area from the late 11th century until the English Reformation. *Oh, wondrous image* was translated from the Latin by the 19th century scholar John Mason Neale. The text is set to a 15th century English ballad titled *Deo Gracias*, Latin for "thanks be to God."

As we come to the end of the Epiphany season, my prayer is that the light of Christ, our salvation, sustain you through your Lenten journey and all the days ahead. Deo Gracias!



If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, please contact Carolyn Flemish at 610-395-7778, and she will pass the need along to members of Jordan's Prayer Chain, who will follow up by praying for your need. Your request will be kept confidential.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be Live streamed at 3:30 p.m. on February 17th. During the service you will be able to administer your own ashes or have a member of your family mark your forehead with your ashes. Individual packets of ashes (enough for a family of 4) will be made available prior to Ash Wed by picking them up at the church on the front porch, drive through communion service on Feb 7th or if need be by contacting Monica in the office to make arrangements to have your ashes delivered to your residence. As you make the sign of the cross on your forehead or on another, you may use these words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." **You may dip your finger in olive oil and then into the ashes or use plain ashes. DO NOT MIX ASHES WITH WATER AS IT CAUSES A BURNING REACTION TO SKIN.**

Drive thru communion on Ash Wed will be held in the Family Center parking lot beginning at 4:15 p.m. and end at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Services will be posted on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and can be viewed during that time or at your convenience. We will be using Holden's Evening Prayer focusing on the theme, "My Well is Dry". Copies of Holden Evening Prayer will be made available to you. Please watch your bulletin s for more info.

Midweek Lenten Bible Study will be held Wednesday, February 24th – March 31st beginning at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We will be using Lutheran Theologian, David Lose's study guide, "Making Sense of the Cross." This study will help us explore the understanding of the significance of the Cross in our faith and how we experience the cross in our life. David Lose uses a narrative style in each chapter as we explore the weekly readings (reading will be done prior to class). Class will be held on Zoom.

Please register by contacting Monica in the church office (jordanlutheran@ptd.net or 610-395-5912) or Pastor Dody (prdody@gmail.com) **NO LATER than FEB 3rd so material can be ordered and distributed accordingly.** **Please include name, email and phone number.** A zoom link will be sent to you to join the class.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

After careful consideration, together with the recommendation of the Relaunch Committee, Church Council has decided to continue VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES through the end of February. At that time, conditions will be re-evaluated, and we will either continue our "pause" or resume in-person worship

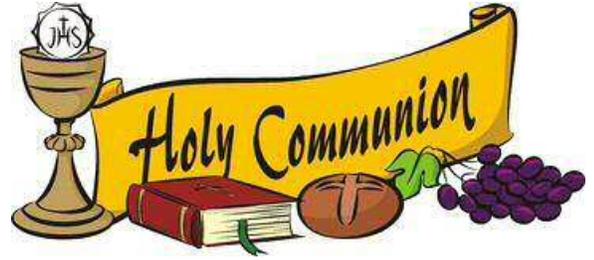
To: 5th Graders who have not received First Communion Instruction

From: Pastor Dody Siegfried

Re: First Communion Instruction

Date: January 27, 2020

All students grade 5 and older who have not yet received First Communion instruction are strongly encouraged to attend a series of three classes scheduled for the following dates:



Sunday, March 1st

Sunday, March 8th

Sunday March 15th

Students will meet for the classes with Pr. Dody via Zoom from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Please register *before February 8th*. Students completing the instruction will receive their First Communion on Palm Sunday (March 28th).

Please fill out and return the form below **ASAP** to register for the classes or email the church at jordanlutheran@ptd.net.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION REGISTRATION
Please register before February 8th

CHILD'S
NAME _____ GRADE _____

PARENTS' NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

_____ *I plan to attend the classes*

_____ *I do not plan to attend the classes.*

_____ *I have already received First Communion instruction.*

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - JANUARY 14, 2021

Approved December 10, 2020 minutes and agenda.

Correspondence: Letter from Bishop Samuel Zeiser, giving thanks for our \$1,000 contribution to the Samuel and Linda Zeiser Leadership Fund in honor of his retirement. Letter was included in January's newsletter. Funds were from Endowment Disbursement.

Special Order:

Election of council officers:

Doug Clark - Council President

Julie Williams - Vice President

Ingrid Martz - Secretary

Relaunch Team - Recommended that we remain with virtual worship through end of February due to the continued increase cases of Covid- 19 in Lehigh County. Team will meet Tuesday prior to each council meeting to evaluate and make the next recommendation to council.

Technology - volunteers needed to help Tom on Sunday mornings to Livestream.

Staff Reports:

Pastor - will attend Learning Ministry Day Workshop (virtual). Jan 23rd

- Working on planning Ash Wed; midweek Lent

CE & Youth - exploring ways to hold Souper Bowl Sunday

- Planning "Show the Love" Road Rally for February 14th.

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

Worship & Music - meeting on February 2nd

Christian Education - teaches are needed esp., as classes are held through Zoom.

Finance - Balance for December 2020 was a surplus of \$36,898 and YTD was a surplus of \$16, 876. These figures do not reflect the SBA (PPP) Loan.

- We have applied for the PPP Forgiveness. We await further notification in the process.

- CLIU payments have been received (\$1400 per month)

For the Good of the Body/Comments/Concerns:

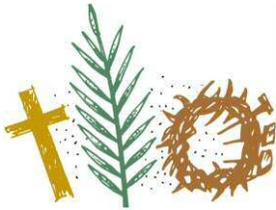
- Outdoor Worship/Picnic - Lone Lane Park pavilion secured for June 13th.

- Providence Hybrid Academy request space to rent beginning Fall 2021 - approved to continue conversation.

- Approved up to \$400 from memorial funds to complete wireless microphone system in choir loft for effective Livestreaming sound.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next regular council meeting will be **Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.** All council meetings are an open meeting and members are invited to attend.



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts <i>Pantry 9-10 am</i>	2	3 1:30pm-Staff Mtg. (virtual) 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers <i>Pantry 6-7 pm</i>	4	5	6
7 9:15 WORSHIP <i>10:15-11:00 Drive thru communion</i> 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings	8 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts	9 7:00-Relaunch Mtg. (virtual)	10 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers	11 7:00-Church Council (virtual)	12	13
14 9:15 WORSHIP 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings 	15 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts <i>Pantry 9-10 am</i>	16	17  3:30 Live Stream Service <i>4:15-5 -Drive thru communion</i> 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers	18	19	20
21 9:15 WORSHIP <i>10:15-11:00-Drive thru communion</i> 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings	22 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts	23	24 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers	25	26	27
28 9:15 WORSHIP 10:15 Sunday School-zoom <i>Annual Rpts. distributed</i> 6:30-New Beginnings	<p>LENT is about BECOMING, DOING and CHANGING <i>whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now.</i> Sister Joan Chittister, OSB</p>					
<i>All Worship Services live streamed through February 28th</i>						
<p>Due to the ever-changing situation with Covid, please note that all worship services and drive-thru communion are subject to change. Please keep watch for updated info which will be sent to you as soon as possible via email and posted on Jordan's webpage and Facebook page</p>						

Need some fun to fight pandemic/winter doldrums?



"Share the Love" Road Rally!

Sunday, February 14, 2021

2:00 - 5:00 P.M.



Put together your road rally team and register to join an afternoon of socially distanced fun, as we "Share the Love" with friends and neighbors in our community! In order to best follow CDC guidelines with regard to the pandemic, ***we ask that teams be made up of members of the same family*** (min. of 2 people for safety reasons - we don't want you to drive while navigating and solving clues!) Driver must be 18 years or older. All vehicle occupants must have access to a seatbelt. At least one team member needs to have a cell phone with a camera and be comfortable texting photos & sharing videos. A tutoring session can be arranged for anyone who needs a little help with either of these tasks! Just let Jamie know in advance.

The day of the event, each team is given a set of clues. Each clue points to a specific location (within a 12-mile radius of Jordan Lutheran) where your team will have to complete and document (photograph) a task to earn points. Bonus points are earned through bonus video tasks. Teams compete to earn the greatest number of points in the allotted time frame by completing required tasks, bonus tasks and bonus videos. (Think scavenger hunt!) There are several community service related pieces incorporated into our road rally, hence the name "Share the Love."

Each team must arrive with the following required "entrance fees:"

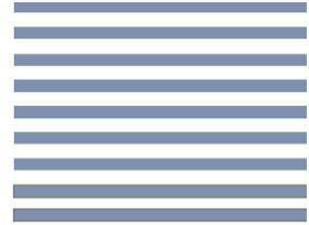
- Three dozen pre-wrapped/bagged cookies, brownies or other treat that can be individually wrapped or bagged. Items can be store-bought or homemade. These items will be donated along the route at specified locations. More specifics will be relayed via email to the team captain upon registration.
- One box of cereal **per team member**.

Online registration at <https://www.jordanlutheran.org/youth--family-activities.html> is open until midnight on February 7th. **No late registrations will be accepted** due to the extensive planning & preparation required the week before the rally. Questions can be directed to Jamie Edelman via email (JordanDCE@ptd.net).



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



ISSUE NO 2 | FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 29

From Our Bishop: Vital Signs for Now

As I write this in January, I have no way of knowing what our situation – national, state, or local – will be like. But I have no doubt in two truths. First, God will be with us and for us. Second, the big challenges will still be upon us. As people who believe in and follow Jesus, we always have these promises: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again*. This means, wherever we are, and wherever we're headed, that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).

In the midst of all we face, across this Synod – our congregations, leaders, members and ministries – are playing *vital roles* in God's work to bring life out of death, love out of hate, hope out of despair, and joy out of sorrow. The Holy Spirit is revealing *vital signs* in our midst because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. So, I ask you: as part of the Body of Christ, *what are our vital signs right now?* How are we doing these three things:

Healing the hurting? Loving the land? Engaging the stranger?

As a Synod going forward, I'm calling these three, our *Vital Signs for Now*. Ways we are called by our God to address this moment through which we are now living:

- **Heal the Hurting** can include helping all of us, suffering through this pandemic. Those who are facing economic struggle. Those who are also ill from other afflictions, including addiction, anxiety and depression. Those having a hard time finding health care and security. And those in pain and fear from our large divides over politics.
- **Love the Land** can include the realities of climate change. The need to make our communities more livable for everyone. And deciding what is best to do with our buildings and properties, to bring more life to our neighbors as well as ourselves.
- **Engage the Stranger** can include anyone who feels estranged, inside and outside our churches. It includes all the ways that have made us estranged from each other and our core Christian values: the lack of welcome for all people, especially foreigners and our LGBTQIA+ siblings; racial injustice and white supremacy; the disregard of facts and the lack of listening to the "other side".

In these first days and weeks of 2021, as a Synod, let us work on these three things. And let us share with each other, what is working and how the Spirit is moving and leading. Let's tell each other and ask your pastors and councils to share with our deans and Synod staff. We will then share with the whole Synod. Let's go and grow more alive and vital, together, as church, by the grace of our great God.

Bishop Christopher deForest

Vital Signs!

When Pastor Michele Kaufman decided she wanted to have Palm Sunday and Easter services in-person last spring at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop, she and members of the congregation decided to hold drive-in services on the church grounds. Jim Doxsey, a member of the congregation, purchased a low-frequency FM radio transmitter so members could listen to the service inside their vehicles. The concept worked well, and the outdoor services continued throughout the spring and summer.

In the spring, the congregation completed work on a prayer garden at the rear of the church where Pr. Kaufman conducted the services. Recently, the church moved its 9 a.m. service indoors, but kept the 11 a.m. gathering outside. As late fall arrived, the congregation came up with an idea to allow the pastor to continue to conduct the outdoor service, even in inclement weather.

They built her a Pastor Pod.

"The 9 a.m. service was moved indoors, maintaining social distancing and requiring masks," Pr. Kaufman said. "But we wanted to keep one of our services outdoors because several members of the congregation were dealing with cancer and other health problems. We wanted to make sure they could attend services but be safe."

The approximately 6x8 foot "Pastor Pod" is located adjacent to the church parish hall. It was constructed using two-by-four supports, has a platform, and a roof – the entire structure enclosed in plexiglass.



The congregation and surrounding community embraced the concept of the Pastor Pod with great enthusiasm. "We have people from as far as 25+ miles traveling to worship with us. We have several families from neighboring congregations and different Christian traditions attending on a regular basis because of the safety factor. The creativity and **innovation and resilience** this congregation has displayed in these trying times has been an inspiration. It has been our modern-day Reformation! We are church in every sense of the phrase!" reported Pr. Kaufman.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop

Born and raised in Richmond, VA, I graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a public policy and economics degree. After a year of itinerant youth ministry in the Midwest and 18 months as an inventory analyst, I admitted that the rustling in my gut was not indigestion but a call to sacramental service in the Church. I went to Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where I learned to appreciate the rhythm of daily life, shrimp and grits, theology, and Friday night cookouts. Since ordination, I've served St. James, Hobbie and St. John, Mohnton. I continue to be gobsmacked for the gift to be about what God is up to in the world—to point out Jesus, crucified and risen.

Pastor Rachael Dietz



I cheer for the Steelers and Packers passionately, stretch daily, roast coffee regularly, and travel through life curiously.