



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A blessed, happy and healthy New Year to you and your loved ones! Let us pray that this year will be filled with more hope and joy than this past year! I would love to tell you that we will resume in person worship this month, but I am afraid that is not the case. The Relaunch Committee, church council and I are reevaluating the Covid situation in Lehigh County. We ask for your continued prayers and give thanks for your continued financial and individual sharing of your gifts to support the ministry and mission of Jordan. Without you and your support we would find the challenge greater than it already has been.

This month in our scripture readings, as we enter the season of Epiphany, we will find the stories that bring us hope and joy as we hear how Jesus, once baptized, goes forth to call his disciples to begin his ministry here on earth as he travels from one town to another sharing the Good News of God as well as setting an example of what it means to follow God's will through acts of teaching, healing, and casting out demons.

Epiphany signs of Jesus are all around us. We need only to be open to the healings and positive forces in our life, as opposed to the negativity, doubt and fear. We are reminded of Jesus' healing power not only in our scripture lessons, but in those who touch our lives, those who reach out to us in a phone call, a simple note, or those who in the simplest form are kind to us. We find Christ revealed to us not only in the remaining Christmas lights throughout our home and communities, but also in the words remembered and the gift received in our own baptism as we hear of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus and God claiming Jesus as His own.

As we continue to anticipate when we will be able to return to in person worship, may we wait with the wonder of the magi as they sought out Jesus. May we be cognizant of the wonders of God in the form of Emmanuel, God with us, as we go about our daily life.

Entering this new year and the season of Epiphany, may Christ be revealed in your life, so you may be the vessel to reveal His light, love, peace and joy to others.

**CELEBRATING
GOD
CONNECTING
PEOPLE**

God's Blessings!

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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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

January

Due to the ever-changing situation with Covid, please note that all worship services 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.

Second Sunday of Christmas (1/3)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service
w/council installation, communion
10:15-11:00 – Drive-thru Communion

Baptism of Our Lord (1/10)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service

Second Sunday after Epiphany (1/17)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service
10:15-11:00 – Drive-thru Communion

Third Sunday after Epiphany (1/24)

9:15 am – Live Streamed Worship Service

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (1/31)

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 January 31st.

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.



Deaths

These members have passed through the grave and gate of death to joyful resurrection during the last month:

LaRue Wuchter 12/15/20

On behalf of the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley and our Holiday Hope Chests program, we wanted to again say **THANK YOU** for your support of Holiday Hope Chests. Because of your generosity we are pleased to share with you **IT IS A WRAP!**

Holiday Hope Chests successfully met the needs of 44 nonprofits here in the Lehigh Valley and two newcomers from Carbon County. Together with the funds that you contributed and our 350+ box donors, we shopped, packed and distributed 8,040 shoeboxes.

We are also thankful for having 730 hours of volunteer time for the program and for the efficiency in which the nonprofits came to pick up their shoeboxes. View the video below to hear words of thanks from some of the agencies who distributed the boxes.

2020 has been a challenging year and it is because of our very generous donors like you, that we were able to host a very successful Holiday Hope Chests this year and bring happiness in a shoebox to so many youth in our community. In our virtual world, we feel blessed for the support from each of you and our other sponsors who helped us deliver.

We look forward to 2021 and are wishing you **JOY** this holiday season. We will look forward to connecting with you again next year.



Winter Weather

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER, the most important thing is for everyone to be safe. Please do not travel to Jordan Lutheran Church for worship services or events if you feel doing so would be unsafe. Every effort will be made to conduct the Sunday morning worship services, along with the related classes for children, students, and adults. At times extremely hazardous weather, impassable travel conditions, severe damage to facilities, and/or a power outage at the church may cause a cancellation. If bad weather causes you to wonder whether church or a church event has been cancelled, you can find the answer several ways: **call the church office** for a recorded message, **watch WFMZ TV** or **check the church's website and/or Facebook page**. A determination of church program status will be made and communicated as expeditiously as possible.



Council Highlights - December 10, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Approved Nov. 12, 2020 and special meeting Nov. 25th minutes and agenda.

Correspondence: none

Pastor's report (written):

- Thanked Jeff Laudenslager, Dave Mancke, Kyle Heston, Karl Kroboth, Kevin Murphy, and Terrie Weidman for serving on council.
- BSA Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Claim has been filed with national BSA Office.
- Scam email went to a member of congregation asking to respond. Be aware that this is not from Pastor Dody. Check email form where it was sent.

Dir. Of CE (written):

- Sunday School Program pre-recorded and complete. Thank you to Kaela Bitting for splicing and editing for a final presentation on Dec. 20th.
- Sunday School all virtual. Student supply kits assembled for pick up.
- Confirmation on Zoom bi-weekly. Student packets assembled and ready for pick up.

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

Worship & Music (written) met Nov 17th.

- Many things originally planned have been revised due to the pandemic.

Technology:

- WIFI speed was upgraded to improve Livestream
- Working out details for Zoom congregational meeting.

Property:

- Written letter from Tom Daniel regarding Air Ventilation Upgrades to sanctuary. Due to exorbitant costs council voted to put on hold, noting by the time the plan would be drawn up and the process took place, it will be warmer weather (hopefully Covid not an issue) allowing doors to be open.

Finance:

- Balance for November 2020 was a deficit (\$5,692) and YTD is a deficit (\$20,023). These figures do not reflect the PPL Loan.
- Process to apply for the PPL Forgiveness was very recently extended for church to apply.

For the Good of the Body/Comments/Concerns:

- CLIU is utilizing our facilities. Waiting for their signature back on contract when their board meets 12/21/2020
- Addressed request for winter sports to resume in Family Center was denied, noting no sports will be currently be using FC until further notice.
- Drive-thru communion will be offered Christmas Eve 6 - 7 p.m. and the worship service will be pre-recorded.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next regular council meeting will be **Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**. All council meetings are an open meeting and members are invited to attend.



Staff Support Update:

"Well done, good and faithful servant!" are words that define the service Pastor Jerel Gade has lovingly and with much dedication served the members of Jordan over the last sixteen years. Pastor Gade retired in July from his called position as the pastor at St. Peter's, Macungie. At that time, he agreed to stay on with us as our visitation pastor until the end of year and then re-evaluate.

In preparation for Jordan's 2021 proposed budget, it was decided that we would delete the visitation pastor position for 2021. Several reasons went into that decision. Much of what Pastor Gade did, visiting our shut-ins and hospitalized on a rotating schedule with Pastor Dody was not doable with the Covid-19 Pandemic. In addition, the number of shut-ins has dramatically declined over the years. We are currently down to eight members who need in home visits. The council and finance committee were also trying to cut expenses where possible to obtain a proposed balanced budget.

In conversation with Pastor Gade, Pastor Dody and council felt the current workload could be covered by Pastor Dody. In the event, however, that the need for home visitations increases, we would be able to call on Pastor Gade (if available) or look to another for assistance or other avenues.

Pastor Gade, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your many years of dedication, love, pastoral support and collegiality as Jordan's visitation pastor.

-Pastor Dody Siegfried

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

After careful consideration, the Relaunch Committee has recommended we continue VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES through January 31st, at which time, conditions will be re-evaluated, and we will either continue our "pause" or resume in-person worship.



Christian Education & Youth News



Jamie Edelman ~ JordanDCE@ptd.net ~ 610-395-5912

January Sunday School Schedule

Weekly Sunday School Classes will continue to meet at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom.

Weekly Link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84636239490?pwd=WnVGMUUXRGt4UmdoVXVFSUZMTVFHZ209>

January Confirmation Schedule

January 3 - In Person Mini Retreat in Room 8

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Bring a bag lunch & your student materials (Binder, Bible, Handbook)

Masks are required & social distancing protocols will be followed.

January 10 & 24 - Virtual Class at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83712155489?pwd=b1gwtdlQwVnVnejA5b1FLToRDWwZlQlOT09>

Community Service Opportunity

January 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Clothing Drive Pick Up

Help is needed to move the clothing and load it onto the truck. Masks are required and social distancing protocols will be followed.

This opportunity is open to students and adults of the congregation alike.

Ideally, we need 8-10 people to run an efficient loading operation.



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Just because God feels silent, doesn't mean God is absent.</i></p> <p><i>All Worship Services live streamed through January 31st</i></p>					1	2
<p>3 9:15 WORSHIP Installation of Church Council Members <i>10:15-11:00 Drive thru communion</i> 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings</p>	<p>4 7:00-Boy Scouts <i>Pantry 9-10 am</i></p>	5	<p>6 9:30am-Staff Mtg. (virtual) <i>Pantry 6-7 pm</i></p>	7	8	9
<p>10 9:15 WORSHIP 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings</p>	<p>11 7:00-Boy Scouts</p>	12	<p>13 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers</p>	<p>14 7:00-Church Council (virtual)</p>	15	16
<p>17 9:15 WORSHIP <i>10:15-11:00-Drive thru communion</i> 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings</p>	<p>18 7:00-Boy Scouts <i>Pantry 9-10 am</i></p>	19	<p>20 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 9:15 WORSHIP 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings</p>	<p>25 7:00-Boy Scouts</p>	<p>26 7:00-Relaunch Mtg. (virtual)</p>	<p>27 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers</p>	28	29	30
<p>31 9:15 WORSHIP 10:15 Sunday School-zoom 6:30-New Beginnings</p>						

Due to the ever-changing situation with Covid, please note that all worship services 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



Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. SAMUEL R. ZEISER, Ph.D.
Bishop

December 15, 2020

The Rev. Dody Siegfried
Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church
5103 Snowdrift Road
Orefield, PA 18069-9513

Dear Pastor Siegfried,

I have been informed that Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield has made a generous contribution to the Samuel & Linda Zeiser Fund for Leaders Scholarship Fund. Please accept my sincere appreciation for this kind expression of support by the congregation.

The "spirit" of Jordan, Orefield has been part of my ministry as bishop from the early days of my tenure. I have preached a few times to the congregation, I have celebrated a few special occasions with the congregation, and the congregation has been gracious to allow me to use the building on a few occasions for special gatherings of synod Rostered Leaders and others. On every occasion I have experienced warm hospitality and a welcoming spirit. In addition, all of the occasions were powerful because of the attractive church building and its tranquil setting.

So, Linda and I are especially honored by Jordan's gift to the Scholarship Fund. Your thoughtful gesture adds so much to our feelings about what the Fund represents. Please convey our thanks to Jordan's leaders for their decision to make this gift.

With warm best wishes to you and with thanksgiving to God for the ministry of Jordan Church, Orefield, I am

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Samuel R. Zeiser, Bishop



MAKE A CALL ~ PAY A VISIT ~ SEND A CARD ~ SAY A PRAYER

Fellowship Manor: Florence Roth

Mosser: Arlene Miller

Lehigh Commons: Barbara Diehl

Manor Care: Mary Ann Rau

Village of Palmerton: Ferne Rock

Home: Margaret Smith, Olive Wood, Warren Gressley

Remember these folks who are ill: George Hein, Doug Fay, Lillian Young, Arlene Miller, Linda Grantz, Dorothy Diehl, Jim Miller, Shirley Hamm, Mike Herb, Clark Snyder, Lois Heisler, Dan Stark, Richard Seltzer, Kaylie Radocha, Dave Ludwig, Louise Quaintance, Stan Sockel, Theresa Hedrick, Reed Klotz, Robin Jensen, Louise Stettler, Christopher Fish



January Birthdays

- 1: Shirley Hamm, Beverly Ruppert
- 2: Aaron Wertman, Nicholas Wertman, Jean Wisler
- 3: Vicki Christianson, Gene Hahn, Christopher Hamil, Todd Heller
- 4: Sandra Hamil
- 5: Delbert Koch
- 6: Kyle Christianson, Dylan DuBois, Linda Hendricks, Lyndsey McGrevy
- 7: Karen Hahn, Shirley Moyer, Gavin Russell
- 8: Bonnie Albright, David Knotts
- 9: Louise Stettler
- 10: Joan Dubois, Tyler Keinert, Lori Shortell
- 13: Christopher Boscia, Stephen Laudenslager
- 14: Aubrey Filipovits
- 15: Marie Mikols
- 16: Ulla Martz, Sawyer Martz-Shelton, Taylor Shortell
- 18: John Hivizdak, Harrison Rakos, Luke Serensits
- 19: Abigail Serensits
- 20: Grace-Anne Martz-Shelton, Donald Miller
- 22: Michael Fay, Paul Schenck
- 23: Bruce Stettler
- 24: Grace Haas, Priscilla Nagy
- 25: Joseph Flemish
- 27: James Brezack, Mark Jensen
- 28: John Richebacher
- 29: Jillian Miller, Clinton Trumbauer
- 31: Justin Grim, Kelly Kulp

*These folks are shut-ins. A card or call from you would surely brighten their birthdays!



January Anniversaries

- January 30, 1972: Chris & Robert Heilman
 January 15, 2006: Carina & Tom Epting



Dear God,
 Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year.
 Amen.



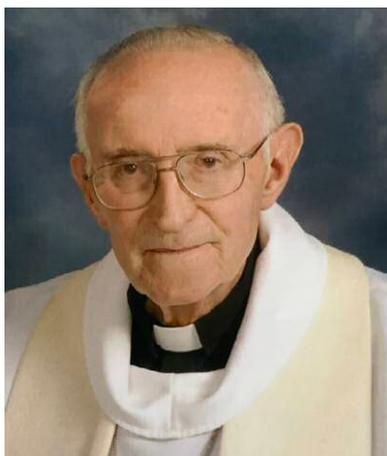
SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A Note from the Bishop Elect

Dear Friends in Christ - The Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany proclaim the good news: "Christ with us" and "Christ revealed to us!" I cling to these words. I long to hold tight, loved ones who must stay apart for a time: my parents, siblings, nephews and nieces. And I grieve for those we have lost, cry out for an end to this present suffering. But I also hear this great promise with new ears and insights: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2 NIV). Let us trust that the Light of the World is here already, and yet his coming is on the cusp, ready to start making all things new. In the coming days, I so look forward to sharing the vision that God is ready to reveal, for new life and renewed purpose across our Synod. More to come: keep watch! - Chris deForest, Bishop Elect

The Rev. Richard H. Stough Honored for Navy Chaplaincy



The Rev. Richard H. Stough was recently recognized for 30 years of service as a U.S. Navy Chaplain with a \$1,000 contribution to the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministry Fund for Leaders Scholarship Endowment Fund in honor of his service. The Endowment supports word and sacrament ministry candidates who will minister to military service members, and those who will serve as Veteran's Administration Chaplains or as Federal Prison Chaplains.

Because of its role in lifting up the Endowment Fund, this synod is designated an "ELCA Medallion Synod." Congregations can become "ELCA Medallion Congregations" by similarly supporting the Endowment Fund. Contact the synod office for more information.

Learning Ministries Day 2021 - Registration Deadline is Jan. 15

On Saturday, January 23, Learning Ministries Day will be held via Zoom for the first time ever; and you are invited! We will offer three one-hour workshop sessions with over 15 workshop options total. Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She will be speaking on "Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today."

A \$25 fee will be charged for each participant which will include the keynote, three workshops of their choice, and a goodie bag mailed directly to their home. Online registration will be open until the end of the day on January 15, 2021. Checks must be received to the Synod Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15. Workshop descriptions and the registration link can be found on the synod website at godslove.org.

Hope, Reading Receives NAACP Community Impact Award



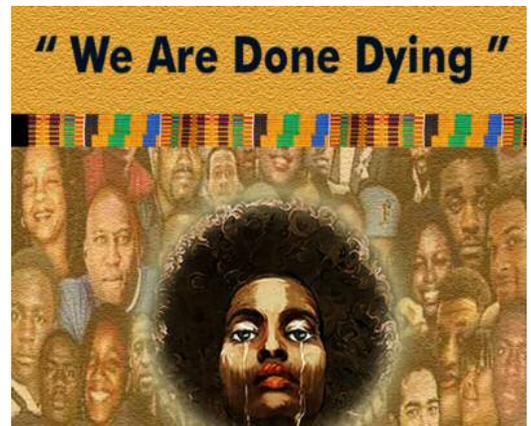
Food distribution staff at Hope

On Saturday, November 14, the Reading Chapter of the NAACP met for its 33rd annual Freedom Fund Gala - virtually, of course. Meals from "Grill Then Chill" were delivered to the homes of attendees. Following the meal, awards were presented to local organizations for their racial justice efforts. The Gala theme was, "We Are Done Dying."

Among the recipients of the 2020 Community Impact Award is a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod - Hope Lutheran Church in the Northwest section of the City of Reading. The award citation reads, in part, "We are thrilled to honor the church's dedication and commitment to making a difference with programs supporting the fullness of life for the residents living in our community."

Hope hosts the largest food pantry in the Helping Harvest Food Bank service area. Additionally, Hope's Table community outreach ministry provides a weekly meal for area residents; and Hope sponsors Café Esperanza, a One World Everybody Eat affiliate. The congregation has also offered summer and after-school programs for the multicultural children and youth who live in the neighborhood.

Pastor Mary Wolfe, who accepted the award on behalf of the congregation, commented, "We are so honored to be considered for this award. Hope has been enriched in many ways through the relationships we have been privileged to form with all of our neighbors."



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