
Dear Siblings in Christ,

We have made it through the Advent and Christmas season, although the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service is one never to forget! For those not in attendance, the fire alarm decided to go off fifteen minutes into the service, eventually sending us out into the cold until the fire department cleared us to safely return to worship. All was well, as it appeared condensation (another story!) got into the ventilation ducts setting off the alarm. Better safe than sorry! Grateful for all who helped, including the Greenawalds Fire Department!



As we find our way through Epiphany, it seems like a low-key season when in fact there is much happening spiritually and with events here at Jordan Lutheran! I am excited that on February 2nd we will hold the congregational meeting reviewing the ministries God guided us through this past year as well as looking to the future, as we officially kick off our Capital Campaign program! "Our Heritage, Our faith, Our Future." I hope you plan on being a part of the congregational meeting following the 9:15 a.m. worship service. Your input is important!

Spiritually, Epiphany is the season that links us from Christmas to Lent, a liminal space, an in-between time, however, not a stagnant time. We hear the stories of Jesus continuing to be revealed to those he encounters as he travels closer to the cross. But we are not there yet. As we continue through the shortened frigid days of winter and long dark nights, we are reminded that Jesus continues to be revealed to us, if we but keep our eyes and hearts open.

February is a month for love as we also observe Valentine's Day. In reality, as Christians, every month and day in the eyes of God should be about love! It is through God's love revealed to and for us through Jesus Christ that each day God continues to guide, challenge, support, love and forgive us, revealing ways for us to the best God calls us to be.

May you know the love of Christ revealed to you and share that love with others. Please join us this month in worship as we continue to hear and experience the love of Christ.

CELEBRATING
GOD
CONNECTING
PEOPLE

*With the Love of Jesus,
Pastor Dody*

CHURCH COUNCIL
2025 Members

Karen Boardman-President
Jeff Steiner-Vice President
Kathy Leonard-Secretary
Glenn Wagner-Treasurer,
(non-council position)
Julie Boscia
Doug Fay
Ken Gross
Bill Hendricks
Andrea Russell
Bob Scheffler
Jonathan Wozniak

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
Administrator: Monica Unangst
Dir. Faith Formation.: Stephanie Derstine
Organist: Susan Hartney
Asst Organist: Janice Kistler
Inc/Exp Coord: Carol Glass
Bell Choirs: Susan Hartney
Canon Choir: Janice Kistler
Cherub Choir: Marlene Peters
Sexton: Paul Schoenberger

DEADLINES

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

HOSPITAL CODE

256

CEMETERY: 610-730-8228

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
February 2025

The Presentation of Our Lord (2/2)

9:15-Worship w/communion

Second Congregational Meeting & Capital Campaign Kickoff
immediately following

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (2/9)

8:00-Worship Service

10:30-Worship Service w/communion

(alternate date for Congregational Mtg. in case of inclement weather)

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (2/16)

8:00-Worship Service w/communion

10:30-Worship Service

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany (2/23)

8:00-Worship Service

10:30-Worship Service w/communion

Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday

10:30 services are live streamed and available on
our website and Facebook page



February

SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23; Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Altar flowers may be sponsored for \$40/2 vase, or *\$20/1 vase*; Bulletins for \$20.

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-295-9148 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 last service or want them taken to shut-ins. If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins. 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.

Family Promise

Jordan Lutheran and St. Joseph the Worker have partnered to commit to host these weeks in 2025 - 02/23, 03/02, 08/03, 08/10, 11/09, & 11/16.

Here is the link to SignupGenius to volunteer for the weeks of:

Feb 23 & Mar 2

– <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D45AEA82FAAF85-53341075-hosting>

Contact Dean Wagaman with any questions or to discuss further about Family Promise – wagamand@ptd.net – 484-241-6992.

Congregational Meeting



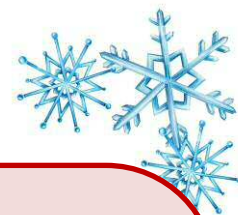
Second Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 2nd*

Following one service
at 9:15 a.m.

**in case of inclement weather,
meeting will be Feb. 9*

Annual reports will be reviewed,
and other congregational
business conducted, including the
Capital Campaign Kick Off.

Reports will be distributed on Jan 26th, one week prior to the Second Congregational Meeting on February 2nd. **All groups** are encouraged to submit a report to gain a better overview of all activities at Jordan.



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.

When Parkland School District cancels classes, please be aware that the church building is also closed to all meetings, sports and other activities, and generally includes the office.

Storms, blizzards, tornado warnings, power outages, damage to the facility, or a state of emergency that warns people to stay off the roads will also prompt building closures/cancellations.

Your best sources of information: our website, Facebook page, WFMZ or a call to the church office to hear a voicemail message on weather status.

Council Highlights - January 9, 2025

Opened with devotions - Pastor Dody

Approval of Dec 12, 2024 minutes and Jan 9, 2025 agenda.

Election of Officers: Pres - Karen Boardman; V Pres - Jeff Steiner; Sec - Kathy Leonard; Treasurer - Glenn Wagner.

Correspondence - none

Staff Reports:

Pastor (written) - Christmas Eve 4 p.m. attendance - 95; 7 p.m. 76 (after returning from fire alarm.) About half returned as we finished the rest of the service.

- NEPA Synod Assembly will be held May 30-31 at Christ Lutheran Hamilton Square, Stroudsburg. Need 1 lay female/1 lay male delegate.
- NEPA Synod Learning Ministry Day will be held here on Jan 25th 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. using entire facility.

Dir of Faith Form (written) - Raise Right (aka previously Scrip) Youth Fundraiser re -activated.

- Attended zoom meeting for NLV MD youth group. Working on unified youth group with congregations in our mission district.

Committee Highlights:

Treasurer (written) - The month of December actual showed a surplus of \$9,075 and the YTD showed a surplus of \$591. Thank you to all members for their contributions throughout the year!

Worship & Music - No report. Next meeting February 4th.

Technology - Nothing to report.

Outreach (written) - Allentown Rescue Mission lunch - prepare Feb 25th, serve 26th contact Glenn Hahn if interested in helping.

- Everybody's Birthday Party - March 2nd following 10:30 service.
- Easter Dawn Breakfast 6:30 -9:30 a.m. - help is needed. Contact Glen Hahn
- Next meeting at 1 p.m. Thursday Feb 6th.

Family Center (written) - sports team updates; Rising Roots resume Jan 9th ; 3 organizations reserved usage for year thus far.

-Presented detailed issue with frozen pipes in FC kitchen due to failed circulator pump. The condensation in the heating ducts caused the fire alarm to go off on Christmas Eve. Working with Property to repair through E.F. Laudenslager.

Christian Education - No report. Next meeting Jan 15th at 5 p.m.

Finance - No meeting.

New Member - No meeting.

Capital Campaign - Kickoff Feb 2nd during congregational meeting. Reviewed packet of info to be mailed out.

Personnel - Reviewed Parish Admin job description. Posting on Jan 13th. Will also work on updating Staff Handbook.

Old Business:

Family Center Kitchen - no update for info regarding deep cleaning.

Council vacancies - 2 adult and 1 youth.

Ann's Retirement recognition will be held Jan 19th with reception following 10:30 service.

New business:

Devotion assignments and committee liaison assigned.

Reviewed procedure for offering security, and the need for additional money counters.

Looking for bids to remove tree behind sexton house.

Family Center heating - proposal from E.F. Laudenslager to replace 1 of 2 boilers at \$37,519 incl. installation. MSP. (amount already incl in the Capital Campaign)

Offering Envelopes divided up and council members will hand deliver to locals.

Set Feb 2nd Congregational Meeting Agenda.

Reviewed the 3-year Inactive Membership list per constitution to remove 10 inactive members.

Regretfully MSP

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m. with Lord's Prayer.

Next regular council meeting is Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. All council meetings are open and members are invited to attend. Full reports/minutes can be obtained in the church office. Monthly financial reports can be found in the information racks in the Memory Room and the Narthex.

Meet Our Newest Church Council Members

Doug Fay

I have been a member of Jordan since 1982. In 2023, Pastor Dody united Carol and me in marriage at Jordan. My three sons, who each were confirmed here and are now married, have blessed us with 11 wonderful grandchildren. My formal education concluded with an MBA from DeSales. My career was in sales and management until 2014 when I bought the Heist Chauffeur Service. In January of 2024, I retired and the company is now owned and run by my son, Michael, and his wife, Stephanie. Carol and I enjoy traveling, especially to PA State Parks in our travel trailer with our two dogs.

Bob Scheffler

My wife Holly and I are the proud parents of five children ranging in age from adults to elementary school. Originally hailing from Montgomery and Bucks Counties, we most recently moved to the Lehigh Valley and joined Jordan as members after living in Dubois in Western PA for over a decade. I am a Social Worker by training, and work at KidsPeace, a children's mental health care provider in Orefield.



Jonathan Wozniak

I have been happily married to my wife, Marci, for 18 years and we have two lovely daughters, Olivia (15) and Caitlin (13). In our spare time, when not operating as our children's private taxi service, we enjoy camping and outdoor activities as a family. As an engineer, I enjoy hands on activity, learning by doing, and making things better. I am a dedicated fly fisherman and enjoy tying my own flies and building my own rods. I look forward to contributing to the congregation as a council member.

Meet Our New Sexton

Hi, I'm *Paul Schoenberger*. I reside in Slatington with my wife, Angela, of 38 years. We have a daughter, Trisha (Jason) and 2 granddaughters, Journey (8) and Pearl (6). I'm retired from Nestle-Purina after 10 years in July 2024. Prior, I worked in construction for 36 years. I look forward to providing my services to Jordan Lutheran Church.



You are always welcome to join the Sunday School Team!

Teach kids how to play God's way. Volunteer to teach Sunday School once a month. Volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher's helper! No lesson planning is required – unless you want to do so – you will simply be acting as a helper. Adults and confirmed high school students can participate in this great ministry! Adults 18 years and older must have clearances on file with the Director of Faith Formation, Stephanie Derstine at jordandff@ptd.net for more information or if you need help applying for volunteer clearances.

Circle of Faith

Beginning on January 19th, the Circle of Faith adult class will begin a six-session journey on learning to trust God entitled, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat." The class will view short videos with time to share thoughts through informal discussions and Bible passages based on each week's topic. All are welcome to join us. If you can't make all six sessions, come to as many sessions as you can.



Souper Bowl - Help Fight Hunger, Sun. Feb. 9th

Monetary donations will be collected during both services for the JELC Food Pantry to help fight hunger in our community. Food pantry donations will be collected in the Memory Room, Jan. 26 - Feb. 16. Specific needs: cake mixes, jello, coffee, drinks-juice, etc. In addition, the CE Committee will serve a lite brunch between services that day to praise God for his provision of food for us each day.

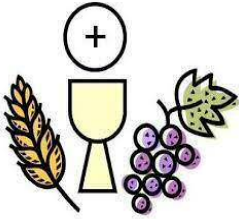
Clothing Drive Continues

Thank you for your continued clothing donations to support Jordan's Youth Group fundraiser. The funds received from your donations will help finance the expenses for the youth to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN on June 28 – July 2, 2027. Please bring your donated items to the church and place your bags in the available bins located at the Office Entrance and the old Social Hall during the following available drop off times: **Sunday mornings before worship or Mon., Tues., Thurs., or Fri. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Please note, the following items are currently what can be accepted:

- Gently used clothing (men's, women's & children's)
- Shoes (pack in bags separate from clothing)
- Purses, backpacks, belts, hats, scarves, gloves, ties
- Tablecloths, bed sheets, curtains, towels, sheets & pillowcases
- Small stuffed animals
- Small hard children's toys and bicycles
- NO PILLOWS, QUILTS, COMFORTERS/BLANKETS OR PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

First Communion Instruction



All students grade 5 and older who have not yet received First Communion instruction are strongly encouraged to attend a series of three classes on Sundays, March 9th, 16th, and 30th (with a snow makeup date of April 6th if needed). Class time will be 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Please register before February 28th so that we have enough time to order materials.

Students completing the instruction **will receive their First Communion on Palm Sunday**

(April 13th). Parents/guardians are expected to attend the first 15 minutes of the first class and the last 15 minutes of the last class.

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 28th

CHILD'S NAME _____

GRADE _____

PARENTS' NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Thank You...

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity in your gift to Pathways PA. Your gift will help families move from poverty to self-sufficiency. Your donation will help to ensure that the families we serve have appropriate housing and are given the support needed to transition to safe, permanent housing. We greatly appreciate your gift to Pathways and the Center for Families. You are making a difference in the lives of the women and children we serve every day.

With sincere gratitude, Renee L. Toussaint, President/CEO

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, I extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous food donation of 219 pounds of much needed items. Your contribution is invaluable in keeping our shelves stocked. We have provided food to over 19,000 families in 2024 and we expect this number to rise. Words cannot fully express our gratitude for your support. The dedication of our staff and over 150 volunteers is continually inspired by the generosity of our community.

With sincere gratitude, Jennifer Kelley, AAEFB President

** These contributions originated with Jordan's Endowment Disbursement Committee **

From the Organist



All of us have heard the statement, “New Year, New You!” Advertising agencies seem to overuse that phrase to encourage consumers to purchase the newest, the latest, and, supposedly, the best items available. Although I really dislike that particular agency language, there is an element of truth in it. Have you considered how you can best share your time and talents with Jordan Lutheran Church in 2025?

Since my area is worship and music, I am always looking for people who would like to join one of our musical ensembles. Do you like to sing? Jordan Chorale for adults, Canon Choir for teens, and Cherub Choir for our youngest singers, could be a perfect fit! Interested in handbells? Our adult group, Friendship Ringers, and our youth ringers, Junior Gyros, have lots of fun while preparing selections, usually for prelude music to help set the tone for worship. Do you play an instrument? Instrumental musicians play for festivals as well as other times during the year, and their skills are always welcome.

Would you like to participate but your schedule does not permit you to attend rehearsals? Please speak with me to see what we can do!

“New Year, New You!” Your musical activity will help to make an already vibrant music ministry even more glorious! We all look forward to making music to the glory of God with you!

Upcoming events - save the date!

Feb. 25/26 – Cook and serve a meal for the Allentown Rescue Mission
March 2 – Everybody’s Birthday Party Potluck Lunch after 10:30 worship
April 20 – Easter Breakfast

We look forward to your participation and assistance with these events!



We come together, friends and loved ones,
Unified in our longing for light and warmth.
May we kindle the fire within our hearts,
And be beacons of light in each other's lives.
Through the cold and through the night,
Guide us, O Source of all light,
Bless us with warmth, O Bringer of peace,
Until the spring returns and the world awakens anew.
Amen.



February 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 9:00-3:00-Confirmation Retreat 10-12-Lacrosse |
| 2 WORSHIP 9:15-communion 2nd Congregational Meeting follows* No Sunday School 5:00-Youth Group 6:30-AA Mtg | 3 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 7:00-Volleyball | 4 9:30am-Staff mtg. 6:30-Worship & Music mtg. 1:30-Game Day 7:30-Volleyball | 5 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC | 6 8am-5pm-Rising Roots School 5:00-Lacrosse 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball | 7 4:00-Youth Badminton 7:00-Volleyball 9:30-Volleyball | 8 10-12-Lacrosse <i>(Conf. Retreat snow date)</i> |
| 9 WORSHIP 8:00 & 10:30-Communion 9:15-Souper Bowl Brunch 9:15 Sunday School 9:30-Chorale <i>*snow date</i> 6:30-AA Mtg | 10 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 7:00-Parkland Garden Club 7:00-Volleyball | 11 7:30-Volleyball 6:30-Bible Study | 12 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC 7:00-Finance Com. | 13 8am-5pm-Rising Roots School 5:00-Lacrosse 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:00-Church Council 7:30-Volleyball | 14 4:00-Youth Badminton 7:00-Volleyball 9:30-Volleyball Happy Valentine's DAY | 15 10-12am, DAR 10-12-Lacrosse |
| 16 WORSHIP 8:00-Communion & 10:30 9:15 Sunday School 9:30-Chorale 9:30-New Member Info Mtg. 6:30-AA Mtg | 17 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 7:00-Volleyball | 18 1:30-Game Day 7:00-Groundhog mtg. 7:30-Volleyball | 19 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC | 20 8am-5pm-Rising Roots School 5:00-Lacrosse 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball | 21 4:00-Youth Badminton 7:00-Volleyball 9:30-Volleyball | 22 10-12-Lacrosse |
| 23 WORSHIP 8:00 & 10:30-Communion Commitment Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 9:30-Chorale 6:30-AA Mtg | 24 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 7:00-Volleyball | 25 7:30-Volleyball 6:30-Bible Study <i>8-12am-FC Kitchen res'd</i> | 26 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC <i>8-12am-FC Kitchen res'd</i> | 27 | 28 | |

- February Highlights**
- 2/1 Confirmation Retreat**
 - 2/2 Second Congregational Meeting**
 - 2/9 Souper Bowl Brunch**
 - 2/23 Commitment Sunday/Capital Campaign**



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Engaging the Stranger Within: The Northeastern PA Synod's Racial Justice Work

Growing up in the American South, much of what was taught about racism dealt with history—slavery, annexation, Jim Crow, and integration. What (and how) we were taught in school, and the ways our community and churches remained unofficially segregated were “just the way things were.” There was a disconnect between the way things were and *why*. Racism was something that had happened, and we were living in the status quo of the Civil Rights Movement. And with that history focused so heavily in the South, it was like racism was somehow localized and intensified in that region, and we were more directly impacted by its legacy.



The privilege of my seminary formation and exposure to different contexts have shown just how limited my awareness of racism’s pervasiveness extends. Racism is a part of every community, congregation, home, and heart. It isn’t localized more intensely in one place or another. Our communities, workplaces, and churches in Northeastern Pennsylvania face the same legacy and challenges of confronting racist prejudices and practices, even if they expose themselves in different ways.

Cultural isolationism, unawareness of our past and current exploitation of the Lenni Lenape and Delaware peoples, emphasis on the immigrant heritage of our congregations while dismissing immigrant communities across the street, and an apathy to acts of violence against persons of color permeates our pews. Confronting personal, local, regional, and national instances of racial prejudice is as important now as ever. The gospel gives us the assurance that the way things are is not how God calls us to be. To get from here to there, we need help learning what we don’t know, and hearing firsthand from our neighbors how we can work together to resist racism.

Through your Mission Support generosity, our Synod has the opportunity to walk together in more intentional ways as we learn about our communities’ and congregations’ complicity in racial prejudice and work for racial justice. Loving the land we steward in Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the people who occupy it, and healing the hurt of our ancestral and contemporary practices, begins with engaging the stranger we do not wish to see in ourselves so that we can better engage the stranger we do not currently see in our neighbors.



Pastor Jennifer Hall and Pastor Samantha Drennan at the 2024 youth pre-gathering event representing the Racial Justice Team

Racial Justice Boundary Training for rostered leaders, Synod Council and Staff, and congregational lay leaders has been an invaluable resource for beginning this work in our Synod. In January, we collaborated with [Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley](#) and our own Synod's [LGBTQ Task Force](#) at the Lutheran Center for a day of worship and action called MLK Jr. Day of Prayer and Service. Partnership with [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania \(LAMPa\)](#), [Liberty Lutheran's](#) MLK Day of Service, and local ecumenical and interfaith agencies committed to the course of justice in our neighborhood are but a few crucial ways we are already naming and confronting racism together as Christ's church, along with our

support of the [ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement](#). All of these endeavors are bolstered by your Mission Support giving, and reflect our shared commitment to growing together as disciples of Jesus who are gospel filled and Spirit led.

Just as the Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (Psalm 103:6), so too does God charge the people with upholding the cause of justice for those most vulnerable (Deuteronomy 16:19-20; 24:17). To get involved in our shared work of racial justice and reconciliation, [reach out to a member of our Synod's Racial Justice Team](#), participate in local or regional educational opportunities with partnering colleges and universities, confront practices that reinforce barriers based on race and ethnicity, and have conversations with other disciples in your congregation about how your baptized community can work for justice and peace in in the world.

Submitted by: The Rev. Brandon M. Heavner, Weisenberg- New Tripoli, NEPA Synod Racial Justice Team

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's directions of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.

RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING



FEBRUARY 8

All Northeastern PA Synod rostered leaders (pastors, deacons, and synodically-authorized lay leaders) are required to have **Anti-Racism** at least once every three years.

Training will be presented by The Rev. Carla Christopher.

9:30AM TO 3:00PM

LUTHERAN CENTER

2354 GROVE ROAD, ALLENTOWN

For more information & how to register, visit godslove.org/racial-justice-training