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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We barely have the Christmas decorations put away and we are already facing Lent with Ash Wed on February 14<sup>th</sup>! Yes, Valentine's Day! With all the snow we have received already in January, I can't help but think about how the snowflakes and snow reminds me of Lent as we are cleansed of our sins and made new again.

I recently came across an article that made me stop and think about individual snowflakes. We know that no two snowflakes are alike. Doing some research back in January 1885 a man named Wilson Bentley, while living in Vermont photographed snowflakes. Now can you imagine the challenges without modern day photography techniques? But after successfully photographing over 5,000 snowflakes, he discovered no two were alike.

However, on the other hand in 1988, a scientist, Nancy Knight, flew in the sky over Wisconsin to do the same as Wilson Bentley did, photographing snowflakes but before they fell to the ground. Nancy Knight discovered that snowflakes are the same before they are battered by the wind and temperature changes descending to the ground.

Thinking about these two theories for Lent, we too are both alike and individualistic. We all are created in the image of God, yet we are all unique in our own ways from the makeup of our bodies to the individual characteristics that have shaped us through our years. We too have been shaped by the bumps and bruises of our life. Some bumps and bruises are caused by our own doing by the choices we made; others are through the encounters we have with others in our life, the positive and negative affects people and experiences have on us.

As we prepare for Lent, may we be reminded of the purity in the image of God that we were created. And may the redeeming grace of Christ's love for us, who sees us both with the pureness of a newly shaped snowflake and yet also with our individuals beings as we have been bumped and bruised throughout life, through Christ's love we are made new again, refreshed as fresh as the newly white fallen snow, snowflakes piled upon each other; snowflakes joined together to create beauty that will never be replicated.

May the love of Christ and his redeeming grace, unify us to create beauty in our world, sharing with others Christ's forgiveness of sins, as we are washed in His grace! I invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings as well as our Wednesday midweek Lenten services, as we reflect on our relationship with God and one another as a community of faith.

**CELEBRATING  
GOD  
CONNECTING  
PEOPLE**



May God's Love Renew Your Spirit!

*Pastor Dody*

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**2024 Members**

*Officers*

Doug Clark-Pres.

Jeff Steiner-V Pres.

Karen Boardman-Secretary

Glenn Wagner

(Treasurer/non-council)

Julie Boscia

Ken Gross

Dan Heckman

Bill Hendricks

Kathy Leonard

Ingrid Martz

Andrea Russell

John Weremedic

**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](mailto:jordanlutheran@ptd.net)

[pastorjordanlutheran@ptd.net](mailto:pastorjordanlutheran@ptd.net)

[www.jordanlutheran.org](http://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: Ann Kline

**DEADLINES**

**Newsletter** – 15<sup>th</sup> of the month  
prior to publication

**Bulletin** – 10 a.m. Thursdays

**HOSPITAL CODE**

256

**CEMETERY:** 610-799-4709

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

*February 2024*

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

***Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (2/4)***

9:15-Worship w/communion

Second Congregational Meeting immediately following

***Transfiguration of Our Lord (2/11)***

8:00-Worship Service

10:30-Worship Service w/communion, Recep. of new members

***Ash Wednesday (2/14)***

7:00-Worship w/communion & imposition of ashes

***First Sunday in Lent (2/18)***

8:00-Worship Service w/communion

10:30-Worship Service

***7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service (2/21)***

***Second Sunday in Lent (2/25)***

8:00-Worship Service

10:30-Worship Service w/communion

***7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service (2/28)***



*February*

## SPONSORSHIPS

**Altar Flowers:** Feb. 4, 18, 25; Mar. 3, 10, 24, 3; Apr 7, 14; May 19, 26

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](mailto: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 is one of fifteen host congregations with Family Promise of Lehigh Valley (FPLV). FPLV is a non-emergency, 90 day shelter program for families with minor children experiencing situational homelessness. We host up to four families four weeks a year at Jordan. For each week that we host - daily at 6:30pm families are driven to Jordan in the bus from the Day Center, at 1346 Hamilton Blvd in Allentown, where we feed them dinner, provide fellowship and a warm safe place to sleep. At 6am, the guests take the bus back to the Day Center to start their day.

Jordan Lutheran and St Joseph the Worker have partnered to host eight (8) weeks at Jordan in 2024. The 2024 hosting weeks are - Jan 21 & 28, Feb 25 & Mar 3, Aug 4 & 11, & Nov 3 & 10.

We also picked up one last week in 2023 - the week of December 31.

Here is the link -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D45AEA82FAAF85-46331024-hosting>

## Congregational Meeting



### Second Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>\*

Following one service  
at 9:15 a.m.

*\*in the event of inclement weather,  
meeting will be held Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>*

Annual reports will be reviewed,  
and other congregational  
business conducted.

Reports will be distributed on Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, one week prior to the Second Congregational Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>. **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, or a call to the church office to hear a voicemail message on weather status.**

## **Council Highlights - January 11, 2024**

**Election of Council officers** as follows: Pres.- Doug Clark; VP - Jeff Steiner; Sec Ingrid Martz  
**Approved** 12/14/2023 minutes and the 1/11/2024 agenda.

**Correspondence:** None

### **Staff Reports:**

Pastor (written) - Blue Christmas Service - no one attended. Christmas Eve Services were well attended; 4 p.m. - 125, 7 p.m. - 185.

-Will be attending the Bishop's Conference Feb 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> at Shawnee on the Delaware.

Dir of Faith Form (written) - Sunday School Program held 12/17 went well.

- Movie Night planned for Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. Other events presented.

### **Committee Highlights:**

Treasurer (written) - Month of December actual showed a surplus of \$24,090 and the YTD actual deficit of \$29,982. While expenses were in line, giving has been down for the overall year.

Worship & Music - No report. Next meeting scheduled for 1/30.

Technology - No report.

Property (written) - Cancelled previous snow removal contractor and hired new. Heating issue on M floor and Sunday School rooms on 1<sup>st</sup> floor resolved. Listed upcoming repairs. Will discuss several larger projects at congregational meeting.

Outreach/Mission - No report. Needs members as well as committee chair.

Family Center (written) - no action required. Storage concerns presented and working on with other groups.

Christian Education - No meeting. Next meeting 1/24.

Finance (written) - Reviewed treasurer's report. Committees need to oversee spending more closely to stay within budgets.

### **Old business:**

-Staff reviews in progress. Half completed.

-Letter to tenant with rent increase needs to be sent.

### **New Business:**

-Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Congregational Mtg agenda discussed.

-Advertising in newspaper to be discontinued. MSP

-Devotion and Committee Liaison assigned: W&M - Julie Boscia; Technology - Ken Gross; Property - John Weremedic; Outreach - Kathy Leonard; Family Center - Ken Gross via Sally's reports; Finance - Jeff Steiner.

-2024 Offering Envelopes (120) will be hand delivered to local members by council members.

-Leadership Retreat - Pastor proposed a one-day leadership event to be led by outside person. Pr. will contact persons to attend next council meeting to present overview. MSP.

-Three-year inactive names (63) presented and removed from membership rolls. MSP.

-Congregational Constitution needs updating along with bylaws/resolutions. Goal for this yr.

Next regular council meeting is **February 8, 2024**, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room. All council meetings are open meetings 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 Narthex.



### **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](mailto:jordandff@ptd.net) for more information or if you need help applying for volunteer clearances.



### **Super Bowl Sunday, February 11**

A lite brunch will be offered between services in the Memory Room. Monetary donations will be collected during both worship services, with a 'super-goal' effort to exceed last year's donations of \$200.70. Food pantry donations will also be collected in the Memory Room to help fight hunger.

### **SAVE THE DATES for all upcoming events found below:**

- *March 17 – 24 – stuff Easter eggs*
  - *March 30 – Egg Hunt*
- *May – Mother's Day Brunch*
  - *June 14 – Iron Pigs Game*
- *June 17 – 21 – Vacation Bible School*

### **Clothing Drive Continues**

Jordan Lutheran's youth will continue their clothing drive in 2023!!! 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.**

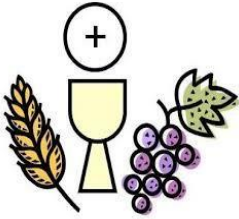


### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

Break out your best soup, salad and dessert recipes - Soup Suppers are on! We begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding them in the Family Center this year. Watch for more information & signup sheets soon!



# 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, Feb. 25, March 3, and March 10 (with a snow makeup date of March 17 if needed). Class time will be 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Please register before February 11<sup>th</sup> so that we have enough time to order materials. Students completing the instruction **will receive their First Communion on Palm Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>)**. 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](mailto:jordanlutheran@ptd.net).

## FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION REGISTRATION

*Please register before February 11<sup>th</sup>*

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS' NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**We welcome Julie Boscia back to Church Council!** Her family joined Jordan when she was in third grade and she received her First Communion and was confirmed here. She graduated from Parkland High School, Kutztown University and Muhlenberg College. She has been married to her husband, Chris, for 28 years and they have three children – Alex (22), Michael (20) and Callie (12). She previously served on Council for six years, was a member of most committees while serving, and held the offices of both president and vice-president. She currently is a member of the Worship & Music Committee, an usher, a lector and the coordinator of lectors. Julie is looking forward to serving Jordan again on Church Council.





**Thank you, Jordan members** for supporting Shout Out for Shut-in's (SOS) card ministry. Last year, SOS sent just shy of 300 cards to those feeling ill, shut-ins, couples celebrating 50+ anniversaries and individuals celebrating 80+ birthdays. Your generous donations of cards and postage stamps enabled SOS to be totally self-sufficient! We are always looking for additional volunteers to help us continue with this incredible mission at Jordan. Please consider joining us.

Peace & Blessings,

The SOS Committee: Robin Jensen, Kathy Leonard, Carol Nagle and Kay Mancke



# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT	<b>1</b> 8am-4pm-Rising Roots School 1:30-Staff Mtg. 5:00-Lacrosse 6:00-Executive mtg. 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball	<b>2</b> 4:00-Youth Badminton 7:00-Volleyball 9:30-Volleyball	<b>3</b>  3-6 <i>Volleyball FC</i>
<b>4 WORSHIP</b> <b>9:15-communion</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Meeting follows*</b> <i>No Sunday School</i>  6:30-AA Mtg	<b>5</b> 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 7:30-Altwn Band	<b>6</b> 1:30-Game Day 5:00-Brownies 5:30-Basketball 7:30-Volleyball	<b>7</b> 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC 7:00-Finance Com.	<b>8</b> 3-8pm-Rising Roots School 5:00-Lacrosse 7:00-Church Council 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball	<b>9</b> 4:00-Youth Badminton 7:00-Volleyball 9:30-Volleyball	<b>10</b>  3-6 <i>Volleyball FC</i>
<b>11 WORSHIP</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:30-Communion</b> <b>9:15-Souper Bowl Brunch</b> 9:15 Sunday School 9:30-Chorale <i>*snow date</i> 6:30-AA Mtg	<b>12</b> 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 7:00-Parkland Garden Club	<b>13</b> 5:30-Basketball 7:30-Volleyball 6:30-Bible Study	<b>14 ASH WED.</b> 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC <b>6:00-Souper Supper</b> <b>7:00-Ash Wed. Service*</b>	<b>15</b> 8am-4pm-Rising Roots School 5:00-Lacrosse 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball	<b>16</b> 4:00-Youth Badminton 7:00-Volleyball 9:30-Volleyball	<b>17</b>    
<b>18 WORSHIP</b> <b>8:00-Communion &amp; 10:30</b> 9:15 Sunday School 9:30-Chorale 6:30-AA Mtg	<b>19</b> 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 7:30-Altwn Band	<b>20</b> 1:30-Game Day 5:00-Brownies 5:30-Basketball 7:30-Volleyball	<b>21</b> 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC <b>6:00-Souper Supper &amp; 7:00-Lenten Service*</b>	<b>22</b> 8am-4pm-Rising Roots School 5:00-Lacrosse 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball	<b>23</b> 4:00-Youth Badminton 7:00-Volleyball 9:30-Volleyball	<b>24</b>  10-12am <i>DAR mtg, Memory Rm.</i>
<b>25 WORSHIP</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:30-Communion</b> 9:15 Sunday School 9:30-Chorale 1:00-1 <sup>st</sup> Comm. Class 6:30-AA Mtg	<b>26</b> 6:30-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 5:30-Basketball 7:30-Volleyball 6:30-Bible Study	<b>28</b> 9:00-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Fr. Ringers 6:30-Canon Choir 7:00-Badminton-FC <b>6:00-Souper Supper</b> <b>7:00-Lenten Service*</b>	<b>29</b>    		

*\*Wednesdays of Lent – Holden Evening Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.  
 Ash Wed., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> thru March 20<sup>th</sup>, with Soup Suppers in the Family Center  
 at 6:00 p.m., prior to the worship service.*