

*Happy New Year Beloved Siblings in Christ!!!!*



*It's a bit daunting to be writing this letter to you a week before Christmas, but that is the way of publications! I pray that you and your loved ones had a blessed Christmas and now as we enter the new year that your year will be just as blessed.*

*During this time of year, it is customary to make New Year resolutions, things that we promise to ourselves and perhaps others, to change our life, to make goals happen that will enhance and better our life. We hope and pray that THIS year will be better than the last. Yet, we know that in some ways all of that is based on false hope. That is, not unless the things we intend to change we are in control of. But many things in our life we are not in control of. We are only in control of the way we react or handle various situations.*

*On January 8<sup>th</sup> we will observe the Baptism of Our Lord. Baptisms are always a wonderful time to hear the words and the promises that God makes and that we accept as we too are called to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Throughout history, God has led his people through the wilderness, through the parting of the Red Sea to escape oppression, and God led the Israelites by a pillar of fire. Through the liturgy of Baptism, we recall the history of God's faithfulness as God adopts us God's own children.*

*It is through our baptism that we too promise to "live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." (ELW Holy Baptism pg 236). Also, in January we enter into the liturgical season of Epiphany, a time when we hear the early days of Jesus' ministry, when he called his disciples to follow him. It is also a time when Jesus is revealed to the people, through his baptism and through the way he lives his life, calling us to follow.*

*In the midst of the cold, gloomy days of January, how is that you will make changes in your life to live out your baptismal promises with more vigor and faithfulness? How is it that Christ is revealed in your life and how will you proclaim it to others through your words and deeds?*

**CELEBRATING  
GOD  
CONNECTING  
PEOPLE**

*The season of Christmas may be over, but we are still called to "Go Tell it on the Mountain that Jesus Christ is Born"! Not only is Jesus born, but he continues to live through each of us as he is revealed to us, through us, and with us each day! Come celebrate the New Year with your community of faith at Jordan by worshipping God who remains faithful!!!*

*Happy New Year!!!  
Pastor Dody*

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**2023 Members**

Karen Boardman  
Doug Clark  
Ken Gross  
Dan Heckman  
Bill Hendricks  
Kathy Leonard  
Ingrid Martz  
Andrea Russell  
Donna Stark  
Jeff Steiner  
John Weremedic

**Jordan Lutheran Church**

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

**CONTACT INFO**

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[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

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**January 2023**

***Second Sunday of Christmas (1/1)***

9:15 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

***Baptism of Our Lord (1/8)***

8:00-Worship Service

10:30-Worship Service w/communion & baptism  
*Council Installation at both services*

***Second Sunday after Epiphany (1/15)***

8:00-Worship Service w/communion

10:30-Worship Service

(snow date for Council Installation)

***Third Sunday after Epiphany (1/22)***

8:00-Worship Service

10:30-Worship Service w/communion

***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (1/29)***

8:00 & 10:30 -Healing Services

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



## **2023 SPONSORSHIPS**

**Altar Flowers:** Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27

**HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS:** Contact Donna Hahn at 610-395-0613 or [dhahn16@gmail.com](mailto:dhahn16@gmail.com) with your choice of date(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 may be sponsored for \$40/2 vase, or \*\$20/1 vase\*; Bulletins for \$20.

Checks may be made payable to JELC and 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**

We will be hosting families at Jordan for eight weeks in 2023, with St Joseph the Worker. The hosting weeks are Jan 8, Jan 15, Mar 19, Mar 26, Aug 6, Aug 13, Oct 1, & Oct 8. Please take a minute and sign up for a shift or two the weeks of Jan 8 & 15 - on the Jordan website -> Ministries -> Outreach. All of the families we hosted in October have graduated - we will see four new families in January. The bus is running again to deliver families between the Day Center and congregations.

Consider attending Family Promise events - January 2, 2023- BINGO - at Jordan UCC from 11 - 2 & April 1, 2023 - HOMECOMING 23 -, at the Hyatt Place.

## **Congregational Meeting**



### **Second Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Following one service  
at 9:15 a.m.*

*\*snowdate is Feb. 12*

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

Please have your annual committee reports into the church office by Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reports will be distributed on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, one week prior to the Second Congregational Meeting on February 5<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 - December 8, 2022

Approval of Nov 10, 2022 minutes and December 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**Correspondence** - none

### **Staff Reports:**

Pastor (written) - Thanksgiving Eve worship attendance was disappointing with 12 (10 to conduct worship).

- 3 yr. inactive letters were sent out.

Dir of FF (written) - Sunday School Christmas program Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.

SS Parent handbook being updated.

Steph attended and presented a proposal to council to explore updating the website and the bulletin board space in the Sunday School narthex area.

Council expressed the need for more info.

### **Committee Highlights:**

Treasurer (written) - Month of November 2022 showed a shortage of \$18,400 with the YTD deficit of \$24,611. Exceedingly high unexpected maintenance repair expenses this year.

Worship and Music (written) - Abbreviated meeting due to inclement weather. Reviewed upcoming December services. Next meeting February 7, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Technology: No Meeting. Livestreaming remote was an issue one Sunday service.

Property: No meeting/report. D. Clark shared that the new remote thermostat was installed in Family Center.

Outreach/Mission: No meeting/report. Next meeting. January 10, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.

Family Center (written) - no action needed. Update on team usage.

Safety Awareness Team - No meeting/report. Could use volunteers.

Christian Education - No meeting/no report. Next meeting January 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Finance - No meeting/no report.

Stewardship - No meeting/no report. Pastor sent email to all council members regarding Stewardship

Extravaganza Seminar Jan 21, 2023.

### **For the Good of the Body/Comments/ Concerns:**

- Council agreed to explore possible MERT Training at Jordan (Municipal Emergency Response Team ). Will have presenter at an upcoming meeting to be determined for more info.
- Installation of new council members will be on Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> at both services.

Adjournment with Lord's Prayer.

Next regular council meeting is January 12, 2023 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.



## Back to Sunday School Classes!

Classes resume for everyone on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.



## Family Game Day is Sunday, February 12, 2023

Game day is a great time for the Jordan Lutheran team to tackle hunger in our community. Please plan to attend a Soup and Sandwich lunch in the Family Center after the 10:30 a.m. service with a freewill donation. Monetary donations support Jordan Lutheran Food Pantry needs.

In addition, specific pantry donations will also be encouraged for Jordan's Food Pantry during the month of January up to game day (a list of specific donations will be forthcoming). Let's give this a 'souper' team effort to tackle hunger and help our community. Please contact Stephanie Derstine, Director of Faith Formation, with questions.

**Bear Creek Camp**  
570-472-3741  
3601 Bear Creek Blvd.  
Wilkes Barre PA 18702  
[www.bearcreekcamp.org](http://www.bearcreekcamp.org)

## Registration for Youth and Family Camps will open on Monday, January 2nd, 2023 at 8:00am!

Some sessions and age groups have historically filled quickly, so we encourage you to register early!

All campers who register before March 31st will receive an exclusive Early Bird T-Shirt when they arrive at camp featuring this year's theme logo! If interested, please contact Stephanie Derstine, or the camp.

## Save the Date!

Family Movie Night for all ages on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

## Clothing Drive Continued in 2022!!!

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. – Fri. - 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**



### The People of Jordan

Clockwise: Cora Helsley baptism; Parkland Garden Club planters; Youth caroling; More youth caroling; Sunday School Christmas Program; Sunday School Friendly Beasts; tree decorating



# thank you

First, a HUGE THANK YOU to our Sunday School kiddos, confirmation students and youth, for the exceptional job in the Sunday School Christmas Program! The children's singing was superb and could be heard throughout the church, the biblical characters, portrayed by our confirmation class, and Mia and Gracie, as assistant directors, and narrators, helped give direction to participants, and in a very well-spoken manner, brought the story to life for the audience. Well done everyone! A HUGE THANK YOU to the children who invited their friends today. What a great reminder that "all are welcome!" And thank you Landon Epting for offering to share his pre-program piano selections of Christmas carols.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our teachers, volunteers, and exceptional piano player! The time and dedication you gave during weeks of practicing with the children was heard through their beautiful voices today. Also, thank you Steph Heckman for the children's song sheet packets, they worked so much better than our big bulky songbooks! Ms. Marlene and Mr. Dean, thank you for giving students additional direction during the program. Your time and assistance were greatly appreciated.

To the folks that helped behind the scenes with sound, taking pictures and videos, setting out snacks...all these extras were so appreciated, thank you!!!

And huge thank you to parents, grandparents, friends, and members of Jordan. The warm reception to children, students and youth during and after the program was heartfelt.

Today's program was a perfect way to end our Sunday School year, with the birth of Jesus from the viewpoint of the Friendly Beasts. May this program be a gentle reminder that Jesus' presence will continue to bring hope, love, joy, and peace to a fallen world.

*From Stephanie Derstine, Dir. of Faith Formation*

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To my Jordan family,

Thank you. Thank you for all the love and support you have shown me these many years – especially during my seminary years. Thank you for hosting my ordination service and the amazing celebration in the Family Center afterwards. Thank you for the beautiful red stole! It is a gift I will always treasure and one that will always remind me of my family at Jordan Lutheran.

Love in Christ,  
Jamie

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Dear friends of Jordan Lutheran,

I am deeply grateful for your continued commitment to ensure that anyone can have the opportunity to experience the impact of time spent at Bear Creek Camp. This time of year is when we are laying the foundation for next summer and I can't wait for the encounters with Christ and positive community that will be made possible through your gift. Thank you for making a difference!

Merry Christmas!

Collin Grooms, Exec. Director

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Thank you for your recent gift dated Dec. 6, 2022, in the amount of \$500 directed to our Julilee Ministry to the Homeless. We appreciate this generous contribution to the ministry and mission of Zion's Church. Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Timothy Flores, Consistory President

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Received from Jordan Members:

- Special thanks to Lynn & Tom Daniels and Robin Jensen for their help during my recovery from my accident. ~ John Weremedic
  - Thank you for the cards, flowers, concerns and the Advent bag. ~ Clint Trumbauer
  - Thanks for your continuing well wishes, support and Christmas cards. ~ Sonny Laudenslager
  - Our thanks for the many cards we have received. We enjoy them very much! ~ Herbert & Anna Bieber
  - Thanks from Lutheran Congregational Services for two recent donations.
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# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 WORSHIP</b> <b>9:15-Lessons &amp; Carols</b> <b>NO Sunday School</b>  6:30-AA Mtg.	2 6:00-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts  <i>Church office closed</i>	3 5:30-Basketball 7:30-Volleyball	4 5:30-Jr. Gyros 6:15-Friendship Ringers 7:00-Badminton	5 6:00-Exec. Com. mtg. 7:30-Volleyball	6 7:00-Volleyball 7:30-AA Mtg 9:30-Volleyball	7
<b>8 WORSHIP</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:30-Communion, Baptism</b> <i>Installation of Church Council Members (both services)</i> 9:30-Chorale 10:15 Sunday School 11:30-Fam. Ctr. res'd 6:30-AA Mtg	9 6:00-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts	10 9:30-Staff mtg. 5:00-Daisies 5:30-Basketball 6:30-Bible Study 7:30-Volleyball	11 9am-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 5:00-Soccer 6:15-Friendship Ringers 7:00-Badminton	12 8am-4pm-Rising Roots School 7:00-Church Council 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball	13 7:00-Volleyball 7:30-AA Mtg 9:30-Volleyball	14
<b>15 WORSHIP</b> <b>8:00-Communion &amp; 10:30</b> 9:30-Chorale 10:15 Sunday School  6:30-AA Mtg	16 6:00-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 8:00-Altwn Band	17 5:30-Basketball 6:30-Chris. Ed. 7:30-Volleyball	18 9am-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 5:00-Soccer 6:15-Friendship Ringers 7:00-Badminton	19 8am-4pm-Rising Roots School 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball	20 7:00-Volleyball 7:30-AA Mtg 9:30-Volleyball	21
<b>22 WORSHIP</b> <b>8:00-Communion &amp; 10:30</b> 9:30-Chorale 10:15 Sunday School  6:30-AA Mtg	23 6:00-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 8:00-Altwn Band	24 5:00-Daisies 5:30-Basketball 6:30-Bible Study 7:00-Groundhogs 7:30-Volleyball	25 9am-Prayer Shawl 5:30-Jr. Gyros 5:00-Soccer 6:15-Friendship Ringers 7:00-Badminton	26 8am-4pm-Rising Roots School 7:00-PA Dutch Class 7:30-Volleyball	27 7:00-Volleyball 7:30-AA Mtg 9:30-Volleyball	28
<b>29 WORSHIP</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Healing Services</b> 9:30-Chorale 10:15 Sunday School 11:30-Ann'l Cemetery Lotholders mtg.  6:30-AA Mtg	30 6:00-Jordaniers 7:00-Boy Scouts 8:00-Altwn Band	31 5:30-Basketball 7:30-Volleyball				